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Skating Club Celebrates Sixtieth Anniversary

It's just over 70 years since the town of Newton Aycliffe was born. The early 'pioneers' had settled into their new houses, and the town was growing. The trading estate provided many jobs for the local population, friendships were formed, and various social clubs were started.



The hub of the community in those early days, was the Beveridge Hall, in Finchale Road. The hall, along with the adjoining Clarence Hall, was the venue used by so many organisations, including the town's first library, baby clinic, the Red Cross, St John's Ambulance, nursery

as well as youth clubs etc. Even spiritual needs were taken care of, thanks to the Salvation Army and other church organisations, (who can forget Major Elizabeth (Bessie) Lincoln), roaring round the town on her

moped, clutching her supply of Young Soldier and War Cry magazines?

Meanwhile, a young man from Darlington, decided that what the town really needed was a venue for roller skating. Godfrey Bennett, an accomplished skater, who skated at the open air rink in Darlington (South Park) set the wheels (sorry!) in motion, and advertised in the Newtonian - as it was then called. Public sessions were held at 'The Bev' on Saturday evenings, while lessons took place twice a week, initially on Sundays and Tuesdays. There was such a good response, that Godfrey (joined later by his brother, Noel) formed a club, with an annual subscription. And so, in January 1960, the Beveridge Roller Dance & Figure Skating Club was born.

Club colours were chosen - black and white, and a badge was designed and manufactured. Many of the first members initially only had 'street' skates, made from metal, but eventually, most were able to buy (often second hand), white leather skating boots. A committee was formed, mostly consisting of skaters' parents. Membership subscriptions helped to pay for the annual Christmas party. Such was the popularity of the lessons, that there was often a waiting list to join.

In later years, a trip to the theatre to see shows like The Sound of Music & My Fair Lady were very much enjoyed by members and their families. Summer day trips also took place, to places like Butlins at Filey. Everyone was transported there by Mr Billy Voy's Central Coaches.

Skating competitions took place, initially in roller dancing and figure skating, then in later years, free skating and even roller disco competitions. By then, both Godfrey & Noel were the skating instructors. They both gave up every weekend to enable youngsters (and adults) to skate. Additionally, both served on the committee, and spent many hours organising competitions and shows. Competitions were always run very strictly - if club colours and badges were required, nobody would break those rules. Similarly when medal test days took place - we all conformed.

Continued on page 3

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Every Child to be Offered Cycle Training

• Essential bike safety and skills training will be offered to every child in England

• Expected spend on cycling and walking from 2016 to 2021 has doubled to £2.4 billion

• An extra £22 million for the Access Fund, Big Bike Revival and Walk to School Outreach will fund projects next year to kickstart behaviour change

The Government has announced all children in England will be taught the skills for a lifetime of cycling, as its Bikeability training programme is

significantly expanded. The commitment will see an additional 400,000 training places offered on the scheme each year, providing children with the core skills to cycle safely and confidently on the road. More than 80% of children aged between eight and 10-years-old own a bike - and since its launch in 2006, more than 3 million children have already taken part in the Bikeability scheme. The announcement comes as the Government has revealed that expected spend between 2016 and 2021 on active travel has doubled to £2.4

billion.

The Government has also today announced that it will invest £22 million in a range of national schemes over the next year. £20 million will go to extend the Access Fund which helps local authorities support more people to cycle and walk; £1 million will go towards the Big Bike Revival - a grass roots project encouraging more than 40,000 people to take up cycling who wouldn't normally consider it; and £1 million will be invested in the Walk to School outreach programmes offered by the Government's partners Cycling UK and Living Streets.

The Access Fund investment will enable more employers to provide cycle training at work, as well as advice to make it easier for people to make the switch towards more sustainable forms of transport. For example - Blackpool and Sheffield County Councils will receive £2.5 million each to fund their 'Walk To' programmes for another year, while Devon County Council will benefit from a £500,000 grant to support their "Walking and Cycling to Prosperity initiative".

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Neville Community Centre will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.15pm at the Neville Community Centre.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT
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Saturday 15th - "Revenant"

Sam Hauxwell Review: "The blistering set takes in AC/DC, Saxon, Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Ozzy, Scorpions, Metallica, Rainbow, Guns 'n' Roses etc . . . not always the usual choices but a mixed bag of METAL mayhem!"

What makes Revenant stand out from the rest is the years of experience and musicianship put into play during their live performances. Arguably one of the greatest local bands I've ever seen, they never disappoint their audience which is full of bikers and a loyal following.

Revenant have a fantastic set list, which is even enjoyed by those that wouldn't consider themselves metal fans. I personally wouldn't have ever thought of myself as a metal fan but coming from the Frigate on Saturday night, I found myself singing their set list long after they'd finished their mind blowing performance. Black Sabbath, Rage Against the Machine and Metallica are just some of the bands they cover songs from, chewing it up into their own sound and spitting it back into the audience's ears as a kick-in-the-balls stamp on their live covers.

Wherever they go Revenant create an atmosphere like no other, and it's often hard to find a band with music skills as high as theirs, with the ability to get the audience pumped and feeling like they own the world. 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"

One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy.

Saturday 29th February - "Four Letter Word"

Saturday 7th March - "7 Sins"

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

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Thousands of Trees to be Planted Across the County

Thousands of trees will be planted across County Durham's towns and villages to create greener and healthier urban areas.

As part of Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTC), Durham County Council has secured almost £500,000 to plant thousands of trees in spaces where tree canopy is low.

Over the next two years large trees will be planted in areas such as Chester-le-Street, Ouston, Stanley and Meadowfield, as well as other areas, and smaller trees will be planted to create copses to link existing woodland.

The planting will cover different types of open space including parks, playing fields, and road corridors, and will help to increase carbon capture.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "We're delighted to have secured this funding. It's a wonderful opportunity to be able to plant in the urban environment, where tree cover is low. Trees are so important; they help to enhance existing green areas and bring back lost open space."

"After declaring our climate emergency last year, people identified tree planting as a very high priority for offsetting carbon emissions, and this is a welcome start towards a programme of planting schemes across the

county."

Durham County Council is one of 13 areas across the UK to be awarded funding from UTCF in a bid to tackle climate change while boosting health and wellbeing by connecting people to nature.

The areas where trees will be planted include Chester-le-Street, Ouston, Perkinsville, Dipton, Thornley, Shotton Colliery, Easington, Horden, Murton, Bowburn, Meadowfield, Brandon and Stanley.

All planting will be in accessible green spaces, located close to residents' homes, easy to walk to, physically accessible, safe to use and well-maintained.

The council will carry out the work in partnership Karbon Homes and Believe Housing.

Head of housing operations at believe housing, Simon Bartlett, said:

"We're committed to improving the environment of the communities we work in and are really pleased to be working with Durham County Council to make this project possible."

"The thousands of trees being planted will help make towns and villages much more pleasant places to live; not just for us, but for wildlife too."

The £10 million UTCF scheme will see 130,000 trees planted across England's towns and cities by 2021.

These projects will help



Durham and areas across the UK improve health and wellbeing, as well as playing a crucial role in the fight

against climate change, supporting the UK's journey to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

JAZZ AT THE FORUM



Aycliffe Modern Jazz Quartet, 'Acoustic Infusion' are currently enjoying a successful run of jazz nights at The Forum Music Centre, Darlington.

With the great support of the venue, the jazz nights are proving a popular monthly event with guests from the local jazz scene joining the band on stage to play a varied programme of modern jazz, funk and blues.

The next Jazz Night will be on Tuesday 18th February, when the quartet will be joined by the legendary

saxophonist, Ray Dales. Doors open at 7pm and admission is £5.00.

Future dates at The Forum are Tuesday 17th March, "An Evening of Big Band Jazz and Swing" with the Darlington Big Band and Tuesday 21st April, "Acoustic Infusion" with saxophonist Richie Emmerson playing classics from the saxophone greats. Just turn up on the night, or for further information, contact The Forum Music Centre, Borough Road, Darlington Tel 01325 363135.

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Greenfield Students Making European Connections



Students from Greenfield Community College have been given the chance to travel to Europe and make new connections with students from a range of countries. The recent ERASMUS+ trip enabled a group of students to travel overseas and spend time in a Spanish school and family homes, learning more about the culture, landscape and learning experiences in another country. The students also worked with students from Spain, Norway, France and Croatia to explore

Europe's tracks. The group and accompanying staff completed two breath-taking treks, and explored the city of Alicante. "It was amazing to see how the students really pushed themselves in new surroundings and living in a new culture for the week" said subject specialist Mr Robson. "It was a fantastic opportunity for our group of students". Greenfield Community College are committed to encouraging and developing extended learning opportunities

such as this. The students have learned so much about themselves and others, learning more about collaboration, gaining confidence and being resilient when facing new challenges, it has been a memorable experience for all.

JUNCTION 7 WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Junction 7 is a registered charity that is based at The ARK, Silverdale Place, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7DZ.

MONDAY: Community Cafe, menu varies each day 10am-3pm - foodbank, credit union collection point

TUESDAY: 1-3pm drop in for a cuppa and chat. Memory cafe starts 18th February.

WEDNESDAY: 1-3pm drop in for a cuppa and chat. Craft group starting soon. Thrive mens group 7pm-8.30pm, starts 19th February.

THURSDAY: 10am-3pm Community Cafe, every two weeks cuppa with a coppa, Foodbank open. 5pm-6.30pm Youth Club for under 11s.

FRIDAY: Little Ducklings Toddler Group 9.30am-11.30am.

SATURDAY: Once a month, mens breakfast. This year we will be holding an Easter Sunday event at Neville Community Centre. This will include a hot and cold buffet as well as entertainment, why not come along and make new friends? Details to follow. Coffee Pronto have kindly agreed to have a food collection point in their cafe. If anyone would like to donate to the Junction 7 foodbank, please use the container available. Contact details for further information, please email: junc7tion@gmail.com or find us on Facebook Junction 7.

Skating Club Celebrates Sixtieth Anniversary

Continued from front page

Sadly, in the mid 80s, at very short notice, the council decided that the Beveridge Hall and Clarence Hall had to be demolished. This meant that the skating club wouldn't be able to continue as before. Godfrey (assisted by his daughter Lesley) ran 'open' skating sessions at the Recreation Centre for some time, before hanging up his skates for good. My reason for the tale above? The founder of the Beveridge Roller Dance and Figure Skating Club celebrates his 80th birthday on February 16th. Has he retired? Not likely! Godfrey now runs a charity shop, 'All Sorts', at St Clare's Church (self funded) 3 times a week. For everything he did to put roller skating on the map, & inspiring others to keep the torch burning, a big 'Thank You'. Happy Birthday Godfrey A Bennett, from roller skaters worldwide. (Former members now live in Canada, America, Australia & New Zealand, and all send their love).

Town Council Goes Against National Trends

Thank you to all our residents who took part in the Great Aycliffe Town Council 'Your Voice, Your Choice' satisfaction survey. Questionnaire forms were distributed around the Great Aycliffe area and were also available online. A cash prize was awarded to the respondents drawn at random, the first prize went to E. Harker, second prize to J. Bewley and third prize to J. Petrie. The results of this, the fourth Great Aycliffe wide satisfaction survey for Town Council facilities and services, show an improvement in nearly all areas. Whilst nationally, overall satisfaction trends are falling, with a 9% drop, from 72% to 63%, the Town Council has shown a 16% increase to 88%. In addition, nationally, only 59% of people feel they are kept informed about local services as compared to 72% within the Great Aycliffe area. These are both great results and reflect the hard work undertaken by the Town

Council.

In line with all other public bodies, value for money and efficiency are vital components of any organisation. The Town Council has made large savings over the last few years, while continuing to provide a high-quality service without cut backs. The overall value for money score has increased by 15% to 87%. Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the satisfaction survey, more detailed results, along with a selection of your comments, will be reported in the forthcoming Town Council newsletter. If you would like to become involved in Town Council matters please contact Chrissy Walton, Corporate & Policy Officer on 01325 300700, or attend the next meeting of the Customer Panel, an informal meeting which is open to all residents, on Thursday 26 March at 6pm at the Council Offices.

Builders Disrupt Simpasture Shoppers



On Friday 7th February, Newton News received a phone call from a concerned shopkeeper at Simpasture, their concern was the lack of parking spaces for customers due to the amount of vehicles parked on the roads who were involved in the building of the new bungalows on the old Iron

Horse car park. Staff members were having to park on Emerson Way, and customers were driving around trying to find space. One shopkeeper commented: "our customers have nowhere to park and are just driving off, this is very disappointing and should have been better organised."

Relive the 80s at The Big Club

Great Night of 80s Classic Music

Aycliffe Radio are proud to present a "Back to the Eighties" Tribute night with two special and amazing acts performing some of the best and greatest hits of the 1980s. The event will take place at the Big Club in Newton Aycliffe on Saturday 29th February 2020, doors open 7pm and tickets are priced at £4.00 each. The shows will consist of the UK's most exciting tribute to the 1980's. Relive the era of big hair, big shoulders and even bigger tunes, with The Amazing 80's! These sensational performers will take you on a journey back to the days when Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet and Wham ruled the airwaves and mobile phones came in a suitcase. So if you want to have "The Time Of Your Life", then come and "Relax", throw

on your "Baggy Trousers" and get "Footloose" . . . this show is pure 'Gold' and a big hit with all. You can party all night with the crazy boys! The Ska Madness guys bring you the music that shaped the 1980's, from Camden to Madison Square Gardens. With incredible live vocals from the rude boy and the monkey man, the nutty boys are back! Featuring all your favourite Madness hits from "Our House" and "It Must Be Love" to "Baggy Trousers" as well as classics from iconic artists like The Specials and Bad Manners, this show will ensure you "Enjoy Yourself" . . . it's later than you think! Tickets for this incredible event are available from the Big Club or Newton Aycliffe, priced at only £4.00 each.



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Give Youth a Chance

Dear Sir,
One of the issues faced by Town and Parish Councils is the lack of representation which reflects the diversity in their communities, which is important to ensure all voices are heard, all perspectives are given, and our councils are truly democratic. The Local Government Association stats show that our U.K councils have a bias towards being dominated by older, retired people. This has its advantages in the wealth of experience and knowledge older people can bring to the role, but it is impoverished by the lack of passion, new ideas and enthusiasm young people can provide. Balance is what is needed. So when the average age of a Town Councillor in the UK is 60, and that increases by a good decade on our own Town Council, it is refreshing to see a candidate standing who is offering to speak for the young people of our town, to set an example of how, by engaging with our democratic systems, young voices can be heard.



Brandon Fleet is standing for Labour in the Woodham Ward by-election. Brandon is an intelligent young man who has demonstrated real potential. He is willing to learn, he is willing to listen to the people he represents, rather than the other candidates who already think they know everything. They say the future belongs to the young, so let's give our young people a say in what our town will look like, and Vote for Brandon Fleet in the Woodham Ward by-election.

Aycliffe North West Branch Labour Party.

DO WE KNOW OUR CANDIDATES?

Dear Sir,
We know about 'Clive Taylor-Sholl' because he tells us in the Newton News what he believes.

SEPTEMBER 2018

In September 2018 he wrote as 'UKIP Branch Membership Secretary'. Next month he sent in a letter complaining about "Foreigners who demand that WE must surrender to their beliefs and culture to accommodate theirs."

AUGUST 2019

A year later he is telling us his views on 'council housing', saying; "Social housing hides a semi-feral underclass for whom work is an anathema, with drugs and petty crime a way of life.....British society has been warped and corrupted by decades of concentrated social housing, non-traditional values taught in schools and mass migration". So we hope you 'semi-feral' people living in Livin homes will pause before you vote for him, now you know what he thinks of you!

OCTOBER 2019

Next, what does he think about 'remainders'? "They take their orders from a foreign power, they stoke hysteria and fear with insane predictions of apocalypse, they turn the courts into a corrupt sewer as patently disgusting as themselves".

We wonder how many of those 'disgusting' people, who had worries about leaving the EU, would want him on the Town Council?

JANUARY 2020

Are you young? Then you have been "Indoctrinated into thinking anything you were told to".

Are you 'non-white British'? He thinks the word 'racist' is "just a tool to ensure compliance."

"WE NEED MORE BALANCE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL"

In politics, friends come and go, but enemies accumulate. Cllr. John Clare has never been able to forget that I was the one who led to him being sacked (democratically) as Deputy Leader, Chair of Environment and Labour Group Press Officer on the Town Council.

The final straw for me was when he sent an email saying myself and Eddy Adam would be "destroyed like the opposition" (is that bullying?) If we did not back down on what we were raising at a Recreation Committee. His assertion that Labour has no whips and no powers to expel anyone, if true, now means any Labour Councillor can vote freely, but of course they have to be selected to stand for 2021! And the local Labour Branches are controlled by Corbyn supporters.

Bob told me that if just one Labour Councillor wants to be Mayor, they all have to vote for that person and cannot, according to Party rules, vote for an Independent.

We shall see! As for Cllr. Bill Blenkinsopp, it is a well worn joke amongst most Independents, that Bill is an honorary member of the Labour Group, he tends to second everything the Labour leader says before any other Labour members speak.

As a Lib Dem Councillor, in January 2011 (not Independent of any political party for 20 years, like he stated) he was suspended from the Council, unpaid for



3 months, reduced to one on appeal, for bullying.

Cllr. Blenkinsopp swore at a woman Councillor over seating arrangements.

Cllr. Billy Blenkinsopp's suspension ended a 16-month row (he, Bill) estimated had cost the taxpayer £50,000.

Far from any bullying, I proved that the Labour group were breaking the Council's rules.

At the general election, I, like over 10,000 other voters in Sedgfield Constituency, switched voting from Labour to Tory to get an MP who supported Brexit and prevent Corbyn becoming PM. Bill, on the other hand was Labour, Lib Dem, then so called, Independent.

When the regional Labour Party tried to close down the Aycliffe North West Branch recently, I, and I alone, provided the local Labour Party with documents which protected them from being erased.

When the Guardian Newspaper investigated the Constituency Party as being hard left extremists, I stood up for them, and helped counter it. Both times Cllr. Clare thanked me.

When a Labour Town Councillor, in October 2017, had a video of the IRA 2nd Battalion South Armagh on manoeuvres, posted on her Facebook page by a friend, I warned several Labour Councillors privately by email and it was removed. If I was a Tory, why would I have helped the local Labour Party in this way?

Surely I would have given it to the National Papers and taken advantage of the situations? The £39,000 is still sitting in Council balances for Paper Lite. (ie: laptops and ipads, freebies for Councillors, costing more than paper and more damaging to the environment).

The likelihood of the 82 lights on the A167 being removed in 2025 stands, as no Newton Aycliffe Labour, Town or County Councillors, want to pay for them. I sympathise with their sentiment, but let the public know now, rather than leave it to newly elected Councillors in 2025 to have to explain.

We need more balance on the Council, Independents, Lib Dems, Conservatives, more women as well as Labour. No one has a monopoly on wisdom.

Cllr. Arun M. Chandran
Independent.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIGHTING BACK

Dear Sir,
During the General Election I referred to the local Labour Party as being Momentum/ Labour. Subsequently, I have spoken to 'moderate' Labour Party members who say the local party has not been 'infiltrated' by Momentum, however, none can tell me how many Labour Party members are also Momentum members. Nationally, this is a large majority.

I do not profess to be an essayist. Addison and Lamb sugar-coated the didactic pill; I am less subtle and tend to indulge in plain speaking, I respond, under my own name, to political statements which I disagree with. This is especially the case, when a democratically elected foreign Head of State is being personally abused by extreme, left-wing, hate filled, apologists for Corbyn. [In a free delivered, Local Newspaper!] That correspondence ended with a Labour Councillor trying to have me gagged!

Lib Dem Candidate for By-Election

Dear Woodham Residents, I've lived in Woodham for nearly 17 years.

Every year I've wondered why our council tax costs more than almost everywhere else in England. Then I saw that the Labour-run town council, with apparent support of Independents, was hiking council tax.

Worse still they spent £2000 on fancy shredders which can shred CDs!

On January 29th Labour and Independent town councillors unanimously agreed to hike council tax. But rather than spend the money on protecting services or improving something they are putting the whole lot in the bank, into reserves.

Our Town Council now has over £1 million in reserves. We need town councillors who will look for ways to make savings whilst protecting services. Please support me in the Woodham by-election. I'm the only candidate who lives in the Woodham Ward and I'm just a local resident like you, who wants quality services at a decent price in our town.

People can't afford these never-ending Labour-Independent council tax hikes.

Please lend me your vote and I guarantee I will never back another council tax rise until our town council is run properly.

Standing for Woodham and our town.

Michael Stead
Lib Dem Candidate

Subsequently, she wrote under an alias (as a dog).

So to, "Name and address supplied" (I would do you the courtesy of trying to spell your name correctly, if I knew it) and "Tired of it all", all I can say is come out from under your stone and have the courage of your convictions, otherwise, we must assume that you are none other than Cllr. Beetham writing under yet another alias!

The contention that my letters are an attempt to indoctrinate, is an insult to readers, by someone who has clearly been indoctrinated in the standard left-wing opening gambit of silencing all opposition. [It is called de-platforming when practiced in our left-wing Universities, where it is prevalent].

Readers will note that the butt of left-wing ire in last week's Newton News were the Independents and your newly elected Conservative MP. Our ousted Labour MP ran up almost record expenses. I doubt if our current MP could possibly cost us more than Phil, even if he tried. However, thanks to our Editor, MP Paul Howell tells us what he is doing every week in 'Parliament Talk'. Phil Wilson got elected and then went to ground! We only saw him at 'photo shoots' immediately prior to the General Election.

Yours Sincerely
Alastair P.G. Welsh

"I AM NOT A PUPPET"

Dear Sir,
I feel I must reply to Cllr Blenkinsopp's letter in last week's Newton News.

When Cllr Blenkinsopp attends the meetings does he not take any notice as to what is happening and does he know the council rules? I must advise him that I am an Independent and not an 'Independent puppet', as stated in his letter, and I do know, by the way that the other Independents vote, that they are not puppets.

Has Cllr Blenkinsopp not noticed that they vote the way it is best for the people that they represent and not the way the ruling Labour Party do en bloc?

So much for him being a decent Independent.

Why does he support and second everything that the Labour leader puts forward? Is Cllr Blenkinsopp a Labour puppet or a Labour member?

As he has never supported the Independents for anything that they put forward for the good of Newton Aycliffe.

So will he be standing as Labour next time and stop misleading the people that he represents?

Alderman George Gray

WALK IN MY SHOES

Dear Sir,
Another Tory government brings continuing hardship for women born in the 1950s, who suffer financially because the Government will not recompense them for the increases made unfairly to the state pension age. Women are having their pensions delayed by up to 6 years longer than planned for. In the meantime, many suffer from age discrimination when applying for jobs, have to sell their homes, or rely on others, with consequences on family life which this brings. Had the changes been implemented with proper notification and with a timetable which allowed women to plan for the changes, things would have been different.

The WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) campaigns continue. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman has agreed to review six sample cases of complaint about the way the changes were introduced, while an appeal by the "Back to 60 Campaign" group is to be heard this month.

Sedgfield Labour Women will be supporting the WASPI 2018 Durham Branch "Walk in my Shoes" march in Durham on 29th February, which will draw attention to the number of women who have died before they were able to take their pension under these new rules. We have a new crop of MPs in the region, and WASPI 2018 Durham Branch have also invited the new MPs to one of their meetings.

In the meantime, we would encourage women who are affected by the pension age increases to write to them to let them know how the changes are being felt by women and families. The WASPI website has a helpful sample letter which can be used and adapted to each person's circumstances. Please don't forget to include your name and full address, to make sure you get a reply. Sedgfield Labour Women.

Film Show

"POCAHONTAS"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 18th February features Disney's 33rd animated classic "Pocahontas" a beautiful feel good film for all ages, full of action, colour and fun, along with songs such as "Colours of the Wind" and "Just around the Riverbend".

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.

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



*** FIRST PRIZE £100 CASH ***
Can you sing, play an instrument, dance or have a talent you would like to share?

Under 16s competition will take place:
on Thursday 19th March, 6.30pm
at Greenfield College Main Hall

Limited tickets for non-competitors are available priced at £1.00 each 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

To book your place email:
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





Situations VACANT

Personal Assistant/ Support Worker

Required for a couple living in Barnard Castle area

Do you want to work in a job which is different every day, gives you job satisfaction and a feel-good factor of helping?

Hours: 16/18 hours per week
Hourly Rate: £9.50 per hour.
Times and days are negotiable but may involve occasional weekends.

Duties: are varied, and no two days will be the same. We are individuals and deserve to be treated as such. However, as a general guide, duties may include some support with personal care needs, as well as help to take part in a wide range of interests and activities that support our health and well-being such as arts and crafts, shopping trips and social occasions.

Additional Information: Must hold a valid driving licence.

Full job description will be sent on application.

Successful applicants will undergo
References and an Enhanced DBS Check.

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

UTC Student Secures Competitive BTS Fabrication Apprenticeship

UTC South Durham student Stephen Henry has secured a competitive degree apprenticeship with BTS Facades and Fabrications, a Newton Aycliffe based company which manufactures high-quality facade and rain-screen products. Year 13 student Stephen joined UTC South Durham in 2016 and achieved excellent GCSE results before continuing to study A-Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Computer Science. He has secured a Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeship with BTS and will start in September 2020, splitting his time between BTS and Teesside University. Speaking of the opportunity, Stephen said: "I am excited about starting at BTS and looking forward to the new challenge and what the future holds."

Dave Precious and Phil Atkinson of BTS, stated: "Stephen first came to BTS for work experience back in 2016. Since then he has joined us several times during holiday periods and has shown great potential. When the opportunity arose to offer Stephen an apprenticeship, we were delighted that he accepted. With the way the industry is going, in terms of increased use of automated machines, it is imperative that we continue to invest in people to help achieve the long term goals of the business. We are confident that Stephen will prove to be a valuable member of



our expanding team and look forward to working with him for many years to come." 3rd-7th February was National Apprenticeship Week and UTC South Durham supported the event by hosting launches for Hydram, Costain, and Gestamp's apprenticeship schemes, organising a careers fair with over

30 employers from the local area, and taking students on visits to local businesses, including Husqvarna and SMJ. Apprenticeships are a popular pathway for UTC students with 66% of Year 13 leavers in 2019 securing paid higher or advanced level apprenticeships (the national schools average is 7%).

Revealing the Secrets of the Famous Supersized Celebrity



300 school children from Aycliffe Village and Firthmoor Primary schools have written, illustrated and now published, their very own book! With the help of Darlington author and illustrator Liz Million, the budding writers and artists have produced the storyline, artwork and characters to help tell the tale of the Durham Ox and his astonishing ability to travel in time. Using his life story and their wild imaginations, together they have brainstormed ideas and sketched illustrations to help share the untold story of this remarkable beast. This book can now be left as a gift to future generations so they can Discover Brightwater for themselves. All children involved were given their own copy of the book, here are the Firthmoor Primary School children proudly showing-off the first edition of Billy and the Bull – The Tale of the Durham Ox.

The book will be officially launched on 25th April 2020 as part of the Discover Brightwater BIG Weekend.

Liz Million will be hosting a free illustration workshop at Newton Aycliffe Library alongside a number of events across the weekend. Sarah Barton, Community & Training Manager at Groundwork North East and Cumbria, said: "It's been a pleasure to work alongside Liz and the wonderfully creative children from our local schools. The project has not only helped bring the Durham Ox character to life, it's been a fantastic opportunity for the kids to give something back to the community, explore their hidden talents and learn more about our heritage." Billy and the Bull – The Tale of the Durham Ox is the title of our new Children's book, researched, written and beautifully illustrated by local children and Liz Million. The book is now on sale for just £4.50 and will be available to buy in a number of Brightwater venues within the next few months. Full details will be announced on our website and social pages [@discoverbwl](http://www.discoverbrightwater.co.uk)



We believe that being part of a community is important and Rose Lodge Care Home, of Carers Way, Cobblers Hall, Newton Aycliffe, are opening their doors for a Coffee Morning on Friday 6th March 10.30 – 11.30am.

We would love you to come along and meet our residents and staff and have a coffee and cake with us. We will be delighted to see you all.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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

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

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Situations VACANT

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

Full Time Temporary Seasonal Grounds Maintenance Operative

Hourly rate £9.74 - £9.94

Salary £19,171 Band 2 (ii) Salary point 5-6
Working hours: Monday to Thursday 7.45am-5pm
and Friday 7.45am-3.30pm.

Contract beginning W/C 30th March 2020

Post will involve multiple aspects of grounds maintenance including open spaces, parks and cemeteries. Operation will include use of handheld and ride on machinery.

Candidate will have experience and associated qualifications in grounds maintenance.

Full driving licence required. No CV's.

Closing date: 12 noon Tuesday 10th March 2020

Application packs from: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk
Tel: 01325 300700 E-mail info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk



Greenfield Community College
A Specialist Arts & Science School

School Care Assistant

Grade 1 SCP 3 (£13,670 pro-rata)

32.5 hours per week, term time only

Monday – Friday, 8.30 – 15.30

Fixed term contract subject to student specific funding

Greenfield Community College are looking for an emotionally intelligent person with a caring outlook to take on the role of Care Assistant. You will have a minimum of a level 2 in Maths and English. You will be required to provide high quality care to student(s) with special educational needs and disabilities. The successful candidate will attend to personal needs of the student(s) including dietary, toileting, lifting and moving around the school site.

Please contact Chloe Taylor on 01325 300378 or email chloe.taylor@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered. Completed forms should be returned to the school.

Greenfield Community College is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. As a disability confident employer, we are committed to employing disabled people and people with health conditions making reasonable adjustments to support disabled applicants when required.

The school is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people and require all staff to share this commitment. All posts are subject to a satisfactory DBS clearance.

Closing Date: Monday 2nd March, 12 noon

Interviews will be held week commencing 9th March. All appointments are subject to appropriate pre-employment checks.

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College which has two school sites, one in Newton Aycliffe and one in Shildon. You may be required to work on any of the two sites.

Premier Community Care Ltd.

"Helping you at home, whatever your needs"

WE ARE RECRUITING

About Premier Community Care: Our Home Care Service, which has been successfully operating in County Durham since 1994 is currently seeking dedicated and compassionate mobile carers to join our teams in Durham and surrounding areas.

Requirements for Community Care Assistant in the community:

- A full driving license and access to a vehicle (none drivers cannot be considered for the role)
- A desire to make a difference in people's lives
- A kind and caring approach

Benefits for Care Assistants in the community:

- Alternate weekends and set week days off / 28 days annual leave pro-rata
- Possible guaranteed hours contract if you have 2+ years care experience
- No experience necessary, we will train you
- Mileage paid for travel

Responsibilities of a Care Assistant in the community:

- To provide good quality care to people in their own homes
- To work flexibly to meet people's needs
- To communicate effectively and professionally

At Premier, we:

- Take pride in delivering high quality care
- Promote independence
- Support people to remain in their own homes / communities

If you feel this is the job for you. Please apply with your CV and a covering letter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Contact Kerstien Cummings on 01388 458991 or email kerstien.cummings@premiercommunitycare.co.uk



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PARLIAMENT TALK

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Last Wednesday after writing the column I found out I had been elected to the BEIS select committee and I look forward to engaging in the scrutiny work. The week then continued with loads of interesting meetings. Many of them around the plans for railways in our area and beyond. I have been with the team who are taking over Northern Rail, those who are looking at reversing the Beeching cuts and then a session with the Prime Minister regarding HS2. I followed this up on Friday with meeting staff at Durham County Council on Friday to get more information and then met the Northern Powerhouse Rail team. This has then concluded with the announcement on Tuesday that HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail are to proceed. This is great news for capacity on the railways and of course for Hitachi in particular with the increased potential for future orders and I am pleased that the lobbying I and others have done has produced this result.

I was able to ask a question re climate change in the house on Tuesday 4th. Also on Friday I had a surgery in Sedgefield where I had over 2 hours of interesting conversations. We have also been able to determine where our constituency office will be, we are intending to move into the offices in Newton Aycliffe in early March. I drew a question in Prime Ministers Questions on

Wednesday where I will ask about the funding of our local councils but I am writing this on Tuesday so cannot yet tell you his reply. I was disappointed to read the criticism in last week's Newton News of me for not immediately standing down as a councillor, I have tried to walk a fair line by not benefiting personally from having the multiple incomes by giving the councillors allowances to local charities.

To be clear I will be standing down from the councillor roles to match the elections in May for the PCVC and the Tees Valley Major to minimise the cost of the elections to the Councils. My judgement is that putting the money into local charities is more beneficial to the people I represent than not claiming the allowances and leaving it in the Durham County Council pot where it will dissipate over the county. I hope you all have a good week.

Paul Howell MP
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Climate Emergency Report Action Plan

Dear Sir,
On Wednesday, as the County Council's Climate Change Champion, I was given the unprecedented honour of speaking to Cabinet on the Council's Climate Emergency Report Action Plan. This is what I said:

OPENING COMMENTS

"In a subject where opinion is polarised and vocal, this report seeks to be a model of consultation and reconciliation. It is undeniably amazing in its detail and ambition. I hope that people reading it will agree that the 111 costed action projects are proper, long-term initiatives that will both reduce our emissions and help protect us against the consequences of climate change ... but that each is also, individually, an environmentally-profitable thing-to-do."

"And I very much hope that people will agree that this Plan – which, for an outlay of £3 million, leverages grants to achieve a Council investment of £13 million and, county-wide, up to £50 million-worth of ecological improvements and associated economic regeneration ... that this is a wise way to spend residents' taxes."

THE PLAN COMES IN FOUR SECTIONS.

"Section One (especially

Tables 3 to 5) details 28 actions by which DCC proposes to reduce its own output of 60,000 tonnes CO2e pa. We are being so successful in this regard that the Plan proposes to increase our 2030 reduction target from 60% to 80%. More importantly, alongside the action projects, we are working to EMBED climate action into the Council's everyday routines – into its planning, procurement, pension arrangements, departmental budgeting ... into its employees' job descriptions. The aim is to become, not a Council which 'does climate stuff', but a Climate Emergency Council. "Sections Two and Three seek to address the 2¼ million tonnes of CO2 which County Durham as a whole pumps into the atmosphere every year, and Table 7 lists 83 costed actions which together represent an absolute benefit to the environment and the economy ... whatever you think of climate change."

"The danger of distant target dates – even of 2030 – is that you set off too slowly and fall short because you have left everything too late. This must not happen to Durham County Council. This is a two-year Action Plan – i.e. the first of a number of short-term plans – and it will hopefully leave us ahead of trajectory when we replace it with our next Plan in 2022."

"We will not achieve this alone, so Section 3 of the Report looks at how the Council will work with the public and our partner organisations. The Council is currently reviewing its partnership structures, so this section of the report is less detailed, but it acknowledges that we MUST develop mechanisms which continue to allow the public to monitor and influence our climate change strategy, which enable local groups to take climate action in their communities and neighbourhoods, and which tap the potential of our corporate partners. This must be next year's ambition."

"Finally, Section Four looks at what we want from our government. We do not have the money, the regulatory framework, or the enforcement powers to bring climate neutrality to County Durham. Those things must come from our government and, like Churchill, our message to them has to be: "Give us the tools and we will finish the job". I was at a conference last year where the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy recommended DCC's policies as a starting point for any council wanting to take climate action. We need to turn this approbation into assistance. We need to learn to lobby."

Cabinet approved the plan, which you can read for yourself in full here: <http://bit.ly/CERAP2020>
Cllr John D Clare
(DCC Climate Change Champion)

COULD YOU BE THE FACE OF BRIGHTWATER?

We are looking for people of all ages, race, colour and gender to join us on various photoshoots over the next few months. You don't need to look a specific way or have any modelling experience. We just want real people who live in the Brightwater area.

This is an exciting opportunity to work alongside a professional photographer and build your portfolio. Don't worry if you're not planning a future career as a model, it's also a chance to try a new experience and have some fun!

These images will be used to help us show-off our beautiful home (and your lovely, friendly faces of course!) they will be used



across various online and offline channels such as Social Media, websites, magazine adverts etc. Our first photoshoot will be held on Thursday 27th February 10am-3pm, you can join us for all or part of

the day, just let us know in advance.

We will meet at our head office (DL5 6XP) Transport, lunch and refreshments will be provided. To book a space please email laura@bwlp.co.uk

Durham Sees Increase in Number of Businesses

Latest statistics show that Durham saw an increase in the number of businesses over the last 12 months, despite a background of political and economic uncertainty.

The total number of registered companies in the county grew to 29,218, up from 28,771 at the end of 2018 – which equates to 1.6% growth. However, there was a fall in the number of new company formations during 2019, when 4,623 new companies were registered, compared to 5,223 during 2018, representing a decrease of 11.5%.

The statistics come from the Inform Direct Review of Company Formations using data from Companies House and the Office for National Statistics.

County Durham formed the most new businesses (2,531), followed by Stockton-on-Tees (834) and Darlington (724). John Korchak, Director of Operations at Inform Direct said: "With the last 12 months presenting a very challenging environment for businesses – in terms of political and economic uncertainty – it is not surprising that some counties, including Durham, have experienced a fall in the number of new businesses being established compared to 2018."

"However, this picture is not

replicated throughout the UK. Some counties have seen a record year for new company formations and the UK as a whole has experienced an all-time high of nearly 700,000 new businesses being established over the year."

Alongside this record number of formations – 690,763 compared to 669,855 in 2018 – the overall number of UK companies also continued to grow, with a new high of

4,471,008, a 3.8% increase on the total of 4,308,022 at the end of 2018.

To see a more detailed picture of company formations in Durham – including a full local breakdown, visit:

<https://www.informdirect.co.uk/company-formations-2019/durham/>
To see the report in full visit: <https://www.informdirect.co.uk/company-formations-2019>

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£60.00 per bag
(large dumpy bag - Free delivery, 15 mile Darlington)
Mix of Assorted Hardwoods

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Blue Bridge Centre, Horndale Ave, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 7YR

Parent and ToddlerGroup.

St. Elizabeth's Church

Woodham

Every Tuesday at

12.45pm-2.30pm

Contact Norma Wise:

01325 312 930



This is a weekly opportunity for parents/carers/grandparents to come together in a friendly, safe and welcoming environment.

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

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

Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group 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

SK8 Event

Saturday 23rd May in Town Park, Burn Lane
Free event run by Great Aycliffe Town Council

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

PUPILS VISIT PALACE GREEN



On 30th January twelve Year 7 Woodham Academy students visited the Palace Green Library in Durham to take part in two workshops organised by Durham4schools. The first session 'What is a book?' challenged students to determine what makes a book a book before considering what books and manuscripts

can tell us. The students had the opportunity to handle books from the Library's archive, some of which were hundreds of years old, and to follow a trail of clues to teach them how to use the reference system. The afternoon session focussed on World War 1 and students used primary sources material

to examine what life was really like on the Western Front. The students studied documents and artefacts from the trenches and tried on clothing and equipment that would have been used by the soldiers. They were all fully engaged in the activities all day and asked lots of questions of the archivist and librarian that look after the collection.

GOSPEL CHOIR VISITS XCEL CENTRE

The North East's very own gospel choir the Voices of Virtue are set for the biggest concert to date this Easter and its coming to the XCEL Centre Newton Aycliffe! On April 11th 2020 Voices of Virtue will bring you a night of gospel music, featuring strings, dance and beautiful vocal harmonies that will leave you inspired, lifted and full of joy. Our Good News Easter Presentation promises to be uplifting, enjoyable and inspirational. The audience are in for a real treat and this is one show you do not want to miss!!

The Voices of Virtue Gospel Choir comprise of singers and instrumentalists drawn from churches across the north east. The choir has performed for Prince William during his visit to the North East and have also performed with Martha Reeves and the Vandellas and Sting. Alongside these great experiences we have had the privilege to sing at the Speakers Rooms in the Houses of Parliament and are regarded as one of the North's leading gospel choirs. Our existence is beyond the musical performances, but also to Impact lives, inspire change, foster unity and bring joy through the good news that gospel music brings, whether through our performances or at our workshops in schools and prisons. We are passionate about the gospel music genre and hope to make it a significant part of the soundscape in the North East of England.

As a result Voices of Virtue formed the NE-ONE Community Choir, NE-ONE community choir who will be performing alongside Voices of Virtue on Saturday 11th April 2020.

The event we are advertising is the Good News Easter Presentation in the uncharted waters of Newton Aycliffe where we hope to inspire a taste and love for gospel music. Our audience has heard us sing soul, they've heard us sing civil rights and



spirituals and it's time to hear us sing Gospel the very DNA of Voices of Virtue Gospel Choir. So we are delighted to present the Good News Easter presentation concert on 11th of April 2020 at the XCEL Centre in Newton Aycliffe at 7.00pm where Voices of Virtue will also showcase the growing NE-ONE Community Choir an arm of Voices of Virtue Gospel Choir

which is open to anyone who loves to sing and would love to explore gospel music. To register interest in joining the NE-ONE community choir and to be a part of the performance please e mail ne-one@vovgc.co.uk Tickets for the show are available on Eventbrite "Voices of Virtue Gospel Choir - Good News Easter Presentation".

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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
• 100th Show, Live from Aycliffe Radio Studio (15th Feb)		
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
12-1pm	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
6-7.30pm	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		
6-7pm	Sports Talk	Sean Lawless
7.30-9.30pm	Northern & Classic Soul	Kevin Sowerby

WEDNESDAY

10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
Community Connect sponsored by ROF59		
5-6.30pm	Community Connect	Amy & Carrie
• 19th Feb - Brightonwater		
6.30-8pm	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	BeatRoote	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	
• 21st Feb - Nathan Abbott - 90s Classix		
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

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1917 - Bad Boys For Life

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The Gentlemen - JoJo Rabbit

David Copperfield - Jumanji

Little Women - Paw Patrol

Frozen 2 - The Grudge

Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood



Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

Here is this week's update on developments in the Council and community.

COUNCIL

This week's Cabinet meeting approved a Medium Term Financial Plan looking to invest more than £145 million in services and development projects, plus a Climate Emergency Response Action Plan which, for a Council investment of £3 million, may leverage up to £50 million-worth of carbon-saving projects which will benefit both the environment and the economy. This week also, DCC announced that it has secured £½ million Urban Tree Challenge funding to plant trees in towns. It is wonderful also to hear that DCC is preparing to launch a new Youth Council

– giving a Voice to Youth.

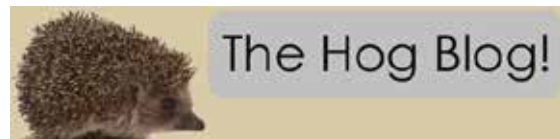
As we get to hear about next year's Council Tax, I have written explanations of why Durham's Council Tax is so high, and why Aycliffe pays two council taxes. I have also published my (very non-expert) reply to the government's Future Homes consultation.

COMMUNITY

Other County Newsbits this week include:

- Have you signed up for this year's garden waste collections?
- Friends of the S&DR meeting, Thursday 6 February.
- It is Regional Tenancy Fraud Awareness Week.
- Latest Coronavirus information and advice.

As always, there is more about all these issues on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB151



To begin with this week can I say thank you Paul and everyone at Newton News for printing this blog, it's going a long way to get the

message out that we need to help these lovely mammals survive all the challenges they face in the wild.

If anyone should see a hedgehog out, especially at this time of year when they should be hibernating, there will be a reason why and they will need to be rescued, we can't leave them out there to die.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society can be contacted on 01584 890801. Thank you.

I would like also to wish Viv and Roy congratulations on their Birthdays this week, without them we wouldn't be able to save another five lovely hedgehogs. Two really lovely people who show continued dedication to our prickly pals.

We would also like to welcome Joan and hubby to this rescue centre, they will be joining Viv and myself. My thanks to all of them, their support and dedication has made it possible for this rescue to thrive! Joan has also managed to recover a somewhat cold and damp female hedgehog from their garden, too small to survive in the wild in these inhospitable conditions, they have called her Audrey, when she settles I will get a nice photo so you can meet her.

This week I would like to introduce you to Jessica, a very nice couple rescued her last autumn from their garden in the daytime. Lorraine Elliott was also very instrumental in getting her to me, thank you Lorraine! She is a very timid and nervous little lady but food, warmth and love has made it possible for her to show her face for this photo.

We don't know why she is nervous so bearing that in mind a new release site has been sourced, a very kind gent called Ed is having her for his garden in the spring. We have so far eleven hungry little hogs to feed and it doesn't come cheap but they are worth every penny, myself, Viv and Joan will be fundraising at the Easter Fair with Community Spirit on Saturday 12th March and the Neville Parade Church on the 28th March, everyone's support is always appreciated.

Thank you
Maxine, Viv and Joan
Aycliffe Rescue Centre

Increase in Police Element of Council Tax to go Ahead

The amount of Council Tax the public pay for the police service, known as the police precept, will increase for 2020-21 by 5% in County Durham and Darlington. This equates to an increase of £10 a year, or 20p a week for a property in Council Tax Band D. The increase follows a consultation exercise across County Durham and Darlington and was supported by the Police and Crime Panel this week.

In January 2020 the Government announced the funding allocation and the cap on the increase which Police and Crime Commissioners can add to the precept. The cap permits an increase of up to £10 per year for a property in Council Tax Band D. The announcement was made later than normal and only allowed for a ten day consultation period. Nonetheless, almost 3000 people responded to the consultation and over 70% were in favour of the increase.

Acting Police, Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Steve White presented his decision, along with his rationale for the increase, to the Police and Crime Panel this morning. The Panel supported his decision unanimously. Steve White said "raising local taxes is not something that can ever be taken lightly. My guiding principles have been to ensure a continuing secure and resilient police service for the people of Durham and Darlington and in my judgement the increase of £10 per year will contribute to that aim. I am grateful that we had a significantly better response to our consultation exercise this year, which demonstrated a breadth of understanding by our communities of the need to continue to invest in Durham Constabulary." Durham County Councillor Lucy Hovvels MBE, Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel, said: "The Panel unanimously supported the Acting PCVC's proposal. Public opinion is extremely valuable to maintain an efficient and effective police service that meets the needs of our local communities and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the approaches taken to significantly increase responses for the precept consultation."



Connecting Communities at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts are opening their doors to celebrate their annual 'Open Art' exhibition. This year there are over fifty artists involved, showcasing their artwork in The Greenfield Gallery. 'Connecting Communities' is a celebration of how we connect with each other and artists are reflecting this sense of creative community through their art.

There will be a preview event on Wednesday 26 February from 18:00 – 20:00 and those attending the event will get the first chance to visit the exhibition, meet artists and enjoy a creative evening at Greenfield Arts. The event is free and open to

the public and there will be refreshments available. It is sure to be a special evening in a lovely environment – a great start to the annual exhibition!

Greenfield Arts have a range of wonderful creative spaces that support artists. If you are a creative or part of a creative group and would like to find out more about what we can offer, how to use the space and gallery opportunities available why not contact our friendly team on 01325 379048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk. You can find also find full details of our programme, events and activities by visiting our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

Half Term Holiday Show at Greenfield Arts



Greenfield Arts are offering wonderful workshop activity for young people alongside a fabulous live performance during the half-term holidays. Rose and Robin is a family show that celebrates life and love, with music and dance, it's a perfect show to be enjoyed by families over the holiday period. Following the show there is a fun workshop using drama and story-telling. The performance takes

place at Greenfield Arts on Tuesday 18 February at 10:30 and is suitable for ages 7 – 12 and adults of course! Running time is 50 minutes and the cost is only £2 per ticket in advance or £3 if you would prefer to pay on the day at the door. You can find out more by visiting our website where you can book online using a simple online form just visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or call our friendly team for further details.

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For more information contact Stuart on 01325 300212



* Subject to small business relief

Little Buddha and the Blind Man

Local author and radio show presenter Phillip Hawkins recently completed his trilogy of personal development books which traces his own personal journey from a childhood of neglect and deprivation where drugs and alcohol dependency were a way of life and extreme violence was considered a legitimate and preferred response to any situation.

As a small child he faced the experience of living in a squat in the middle of winter and sharing the bed with family members lying top to toe, while rats, trying to escape from the freezing cold, tried to squeeze in where they could. A product of a broken home and a dysfunctional family racked with mental health issues that made them a danger to themselves and those around them. A grandfather took great pleasure in beating men and women with equal ferocity for no other reason than he could and a mother who cut a small child's throat when he upset her and she lost control. Later she would make Phillip stand and watch as she took a knife to his brother's throat, to teach them both a lesson in the hardship of life.

They walked the streets in all weathers with their baby sister in her pushchair, while their mother sat in pubs drinking to blot out the misery of her sad life. Phillip became her carer at the age of ten and was often sent to buy medication from neighbours when she suffered withdrawal symptoms and overdosing with prescribed barbiturates and amphetamines. Eventually he succumbed to his own mental health issues at an early age that cast a long shadow, even to this day.

The violence, abuse and neglect were a family secret and although extended family members were well aware of the history of violence and mental health they chose not to get involved. At the age of eighteen he finally snapped and attempted to kill his mother and came frighteningly close to succeeding. The family

closed ranks and it was all hushed up to hide the truth and as a result he attempted suicide and spent time as a voluntary patient in Winterton psychiatric hospital. Rock bottom often gets bad press but it has a lot going for it. It offers you two choices; sit back do nothing and feel sorry for yourself, or start climbing. Fast forward many years of climbing and back sliding, years of trying to be "normal" and fitting in, but always feeling out of place, on the outside looking in.

The start of the new millennium 2000 brought with it major changes in Phillip's life, although traumatic they were also liberating as it brought with them the opportunity to discover if the damaged child could overcome the trauma and use those lessons and grow into the man he wanted to become. Phillip used his own life experience as motivation to train as a counsellor, mentor and teacher working with special needs groups, mental health, substance abuse, physical abuse and those involved in violent crime including murderers and sex offenders.

In 2016 Phillip semi retired to concentrate on his writing and to provide personal development classes in the community. The first book of his personal journey was "Reiki, hold my beer, I've got this" which introduced his relationship with Reiki personal development and its potential to transform even the most troubled life. This was followed by "Journey of a Blind Man" which details Phillip's life story and the blindness of ignorance and fear. The final part of the trilogy is "The Genesis Stone" which develops the principle of personal development, is a life time commitment and the good we do in this life, creates ripples through time and has the power to help and heal generations to come.

In his spare time Phillip hosts his show The Random Reiki Master on Aycliffe Radio on the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 11.00 till 12.00 noon

and writes articles for the Newton News under the title of the Little Buddha. From a person who has lost his way in life more times

than he cares to remember to become a little Buddha in print only, not bad going for a local lad from the wrong side of the tracks?

3 Awards for C.P.I.



CPI has been announced as the winner of three awards at the annual North East Process Industry Cluster (NEPIC) award ceremony including the Young Achiever award, the Apprentice of the Year award and the Apprenticeship Employer award. The awards demonstrate CPI's commitment to upskilling current employees and nurturing future talent.

The Apprenticeship Employer of the Year award celebrates employers with the strongest apprenticeship programmes in the region. With 15 apprentices currently working across CPI's business units, the company is renowned for employing young talent and accelerating their professional development. The award came with a £2,000 prize that CPI has chosen to donate to Thornaby Academy, Teesside.

The Apprentice of the Year award was won by Ben Gay, who is undergoing a Laboratory Scientist apprenticeship at CPI's National Biologics Manufacturing Centre, while completing a degree in Biological Sciences at Teesside University. His work involves ensuring smooth technical delivery and compliance with CPI's quality procedures, as well

as supporting the technical team to set up and carry out experiments.

On receiving the award, Ben said, "I am very proud to win this prestigious award. I feel privileged that CPI has offered me this platform to develop my skills and experience in the workplace. I look forward to furthering my career at CPI after I complete my degree."

The Young Achiever award was won by Dan Wallis, who has worked at CPI for just over seven years, recently being appointed as plant supervisor. Dan was a key player in commissioning the Calysta bespoke demonstration plant under strict deadlines, and has shown remarkable professionalism and leadership in his role.

Dan Wallis said, "My position at CPI has enabled me to gain vital skills in leadership and process operations efficiencies, ensuring we offer the best possible resources to our customers who represent the sustainable future of the chemical industry."

The awards event is organised by NEPIC and sponsored by leading names in the sector, including FujiFilm, Diosynth Biotechnologies and PX Limited. This year the event was held at Hardwick Hall, Sedgfield, and was attended by 450 people. Steve Walls presented the awards evening.

Jodie Coe, Director of Organisation Development at CPI said "The three NEPIC awards won by CPI is fantastic recognition for many years hard work and commitment to develop and inspire the young people of the North East as well as the fantastic skills of the young people in our workforce and in our apprenticeship programmes. We are very proud of Dan and Ben for their achievements as well as the wider Biotechnology, Biologics and HR team that bring the apprenticeship programme together. We will continue to have a strong focus on the development of local young scientists and engineers and connect the dots between education, meaningful experience and growing a career industry.

Business Durham Invests Over Half a Million in Local Business Growth

The County Durham Growth Fund is celebrating having invested more than £500k in three businesses from across the county within 10 months of its launch.

Established in April 2019, the three-year fund is a £4.9m investment scheme providing funding to small and medium sized businesses in County Durham to accelerate their growth.

The fund, overseen by Business Durham, the economic development arm of Durham County Council, is being delivered in partnership with UMi, which has a dedicated team of advisors ready to help with initial eligibility checks and funding applications. The funding has been secured from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.

Each of the companies have secured a sizeable investment to enable them to purchase new equipment, increase their capacity, improve efficiency, expand into new markets and create over 60 new jobs between them.

The successful businesses include engineering firms, Bignall Group Ltd and Dyer Engineering, and large format print supplier, Design X-Press Ltd. Bignall Group, in Shildon, has secured a £35,000 investment to help modernise and update its current machine shop, as well as purchase new milling machinery to increase the firm's capacity and help it expand into new markets.

Dyer Engineering, has received a £475,000 investment to purchase a fibre lasing profiling machine and robotic welding units and cranes at its Annfield Plain premises to help increase its manufacturing capabilities to access new markets. Consett based, Design X-Press, plans to use its £50,000 investment to buy new print equipment to increase its capacity, improve efficiency and offer a broader range of services. The investments are creating new full-time job opportunities at each business – eight jobs at Bignall Group, 54 jobs at Dyer Engineering and four jobs at Design X-Press.

Sarah Slaven, Business Durham's interim Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to be able to fund these three businesses' capital investment projects and help each of them to grow and achieve their ambitions. "It is inspiring to see the County Durham Growth Fund attracting businesses

which can help bring investment not just into the county, but the region as a whole. Each of these companies can make a real impact on our local economy and help boost job creation."

Mark Coatsworth, Group Commercial Manager at Bignall Group, said: "The grant has been gratefully received by Bignall Group, enabling our Shildon Manufacturing Company (SMC) brand to secure additional work through increased machine capacity. This has secured our position with a key customer and enables us to continue supporting our internal projects as well as new and other existing external customers, further contributing to the growth of the North East region.

"We work closely with the

UTC in Aycliffe and are delighted, on the back of this investment, to engage another level 3 apprentice from there. Our machine supplier has also offered additional training, allowing us to continue our investment in local skills, and commitment to develop the next generation of engineers through continual employee development."

Karen Jones, Senior Project Manager at UMi, said: "The fund is really starting to make a difference now and it's great to hear from businesses what the impact from the grant means for them as well as the boost to the County."

For further details contact UMi on 0191 716 1006, or visit www.countydurhamgrowthfund.co.uk

COMMUNITY SPIRIT NEWTON AYCLIFFE WANTS YOU!



Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe require volunteers to help out a various events. If you would like to be considered for this role email communityspiritaycliffe@gmail.com

Snowdrop Walk



Enjoy a walk in beautiful scenery and plant snowdrops in support of Child Bereavement UK

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Crafter's Choose Charity of the Year

Crafter's Companion has named the Bradley Lowery Foundation as its charity of the year.

Staff at Crafter's Companion have organised a number of events to support the foundation throughout the year including a Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge, a summer fundraiser and a special Christmas campaign. The team will also set up in-store donations at Crafter's Companion's three UK stores and will participate in a number of the charity's fundraising activities.

Employees on the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) team voted for the Bradley Lowery Foundation after the company's founder, Sara Davies MBE, was unveiled as the charity's newest patron last year. Since it was founded, the Bradley Lowery Foundation

has raised more than £3million for dozens of poorly children; established a dedicated support line for the families of children with cancer; donated over £200Ks to researching childhood cancers and campaigned for new drugs to be introduced in the UK. Sara said: "I'm really proud that the team has decided to name the Bradley Lowery Foundation as Crafter's Companion's charity of the year. It's a local charity that does fantastic work on a national scale and their work has enabled poorly children to receive much-needed therapy, equipment and life-changing treatment.

"Our CSR team were fantastic in their support of national and local causes last year. The group raised more than £4000 for Children in Need and £5000 for Rainbow Trust Children's Charity so I'm

extremely excited to see how they can help Gemma and the team."

Gemma Lowery, founder of the Bradley Lowery Foundation and Bradley's mum, said: "We were delighted to get Sara's support as our patron last

year and we're even happier now we have the support of her whole team at Crafter's Companion.

"The company's fundraising will help us to continue our work supporting poorly children and their families across the UK."

Contestants Wanted



Shine TV are looking for applicants for a brand new series of Channel 4's Hunted.

The series will follow a number of volunteers as they try to go off grid and become a fugitive in the UK. We are looking for men and women of all ages to try and evade capture from a team of expert trackers. We are looking for people from a variety of backgrounds and professions who think they have what it takes to disappear in 21st

century Britain. They could be going it alone or with friends, family or colleagues.

A prize of £100,000 will be shared equally between the fugitives who successfully evade capture.

To apply please complete the application form at: www.huntedapplications.com

The closing date for applications is Sunday the 23rd of February and you must be 18+ in order to apply to take part in the series.

Neville Community Association

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th February at 6.45pm in Neville Community Centre. There will be a presentation from Junction 7.

Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. Come down and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

VALENTINE SUCCESS FOR SWIMMERS



Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club sent six swimmers to Durham last weekend to compete in Durham Swimming Club's Valentine's Gala.

Youngest of the six was Ellis Dickinson who swam his first 100m race in competition and also slashed a combined ten seconds from his 50m backstroke and freestyle times showing excellent progression.

Dylan Forster had his first taste of competition as he entered four events and set some impressive times coming away with a bronze medal at 50m backstroke. Chloe Harding set three big PBs earning bronze in 100m

backstroke in the process, and Lucy Mason, returning to competition, took silver in 100m freestyle.

Charlie McEwan swam one event, 200m freestyle, taking almost five seconds off his PB and winning the gold medal.

Oliver Turnbull had a great competition, achieving six out of six PBs including over 13 seconds off his 200m breaststroke best and also winning two bronze medals.

It was commented by first-time poolside assistant Debbie that all swimmers conducted themselves excellently and were a pleasure to supervise!



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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOTBALL CLUB

Freelance writer and former Daily Mail North-East football reporter Colin Young explores the major developments made at Newton Aycliffe FC over the last 18 months:

Stronger on and off the pitch than they have ever been, Newton Aycliffe Football Club are looking for the town to get behind their bid to climb the English football divisions.

Formed originally in 1965, and reformed and rebuilt under chairman Allan Oliver just 12 years ago, Colin Stromsø's young side are among the chasing pack for promotion from the Ebac Northern League this season.

Despite a setback in their home clash with rivals North Shields FC at the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium last week, when they suffered a 1-0 defeat, Newton Aycliffe remain in the top six and on the hunt for one of the three automatic promotion places this season.

Chairman Oliver, a former player and manager of his home-town club, admits the team's promotion push has been an unexpected bonus. But they are determined to drive for a place in the Northern Football League Division One.

He said Newton Aycliffe FC need more finances and fans to back their ambitions and he is hoping the town's business and football supporters will get behind the club's plans to get a firm foot in the English football's pyramid.

Oliver said: "This year, for the first time in a while, we are not looking over our shoulder in the league and it has come good. Once you get a sniff of it, and fully realise what it could mean for the club and the town, you might as well give it a go."

"The costs might increase substantially but I think we could deal with that - with some additional support. If you get people and businesses through the gate it pays for itself."



"When we first started we got over 300 every game but we were winning every week back then. Now it is competitive and we are playing teams who pay top dollar to get top players. It's hard but we have had a really good season and we want to give it a push."

"We can score goals and we are resolute. This is our highest ever league position and we would like to get promoted. After this year, only one team goes up and it will get harder and harder to get out of the league."

"Over the last couple of seasons we have been a club on the up. We have made ground improvements, pitch improvements and we have more still to do."

"We need the support of the town. I don't know what the pro clubs charge - it's that long since I've gone - but it must be a minimum of £25, plus your travel there."

"Here, you can see a really competitive game for £6.00 and you are right on the pitchside, there are some quality players about who are probably unlucky not to be playing for a living."

Home is Aycliffe Sports Club which is hidden among the houses in Moore Lane Park. Tucked behind Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club house, the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium is a short walk down the side of the established rugby pitches.

The William Finlay Stand, named after former player and local steel boss John



Finlay's late father, offers seating and the hut behind the goal serves one of the best soups in the Northern League. Improvements to that stone path are among the planned building works in the close season.

Colin Stromsø took over as manager just over a year ago. Part of the Team Northumbria set up before they withdrew from the Northern League last season, he also coached Northumbria University's team in the National College League.

This season has not been without its challenges for the UEFA A qualified coach and the push for promotion has come despite the loss of top scorer Dean Thexton at the turn of the year to rivals Shildon. New signing Adam Burnicle scored eight goals in his first four games.

Like his chairman, Stromsø has ambitions to gain access to the higher divisions with an energetic and talented young squad and players from the area in the ranks.

He said: "A town like Newton Aycliffe has a team that it can rightly be very proud of. It is not only that we are playing really good football, I would argue some of the best in the league, but we have invested in youth and doing it in the right way."

We have integrated with the youth section, so we have put the pathways in place to the first team. There is a long way to go but for a club like Newton Aycliffe, we have made a lot of progress."

"We have a good young, hungry, professionally determined team who want to do well, are focussed on doing well and will get results. That is something the town can really get behind. You will come here and see our team play some really fantastic football."

Aycliffe are at home to Seaham Red Star on Saturday 15th February, 3.00pm, admission £6 for adults.

Science and Showmanship

Captivating chemistry, phenomenal physics and bonkers biology - science and showmanship will collide at a County Durham theatre this month.

After a decade delighting young and old with their award-winning magic shows, Morgan and West are one of the most recognisable conjuring acts on the UK touring circuit. However, the pair hide a dark secret, they are also Oxford University graduates with degrees in physics and chemistry, and fully qualified science teachers to boot.

Their new show Unbelievable Science! celebrates these two passions, combining the duo's trademark showmanship and silliness with genuine scientific knowledge and a lifelong love of learning.

Following a smash hit run at the Edinburgh Fringe, the show is coming to the Gala Theatre and Cinema in Durham on Saturday 15 February as part of a nationwide tour.

Audiences can expect fires, explosions, lightning, optical illusions, mass audience experiments and 3D shadow puppets. It is a chance for the whole family to marvel at what science and nature has to offer, ask questions and explore how things work. Ultimately, it is about throwing out the jargon and making science simple, interesting and enormously exciting.

Rhys Morgan, who presents the show with Robert West, said: "Science education has always been an important part of our lives starting with fantastic teachers at school, through our degrees, and into our teaching careers. We've been searching for a way to come back to this through our shows and we finally decided to take the plunge, put down the deck of cards and pick up the test tube rack."

"We were always known for our rather irreverent and fun approach to magic, so it's time to carry that same sense of silliness over to science."

"Unbelievable Science! is a big, flashy, fun, silly, over-the-top extravaganza for all the family to enjoy together. Plenty of explosions, live experiments, optical illusions, and a whole host of nonsense play over a theme of what scientific method is all about and why scientists do things the way that they do."

Tickets for Unbelievable Science! cost £12 or £10 for concessions. To book, visit www.galadurham.co.uk or call 03000 266 600

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



Away from racing, this week saw Aycliffe Running Club participate in a campaign set up by England Athletics. The Time To Talk Day is a campaign set up to help promote positive mental health that can be achieved through running and is supported by Mind. The Time to Talk Day was on Thursday 6th February. The idea is to encourage people to go out and run socially and talk to others. ARC therefore arranged two successful run and talk sessions on Wednesday 5th with one taking place during the day and another on the evening.

Turning to racing it was a weekend of Parkrun PB's last weekend with several members achieving PB's at various different venues. At Shildon Parkrun, Corey Horn achieved a PB for that course in a time of 20.14, at Sedgefield, Nici Ingman obtained achieved a course PB of 31.08 and Sandra Rudd 32.27 and finally over in Darlington, Hannah Richardson obtained a PB for that course in a time of 35.24. This weekend also saw two members racing unusually on Saturday night. Husband and wife, Richard and Kathleen Tonge took part in the Souter 7k night run at Whitburn. This is a race that is organised by the National Trust. They ran this together in very windy conditions in a time of 57.29.

Unfortunately the cross country racing that was due to take place on Sunday was cancelled due to the bad weather conditions and so it was a quieter week than it should have been in terms of racing.

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

Raby Hunt Named Best in the UK

Top TV chef James Martin has named The Raby Hunt the best restaurant in the UK. The accolade came on his Saturday morning television show, where he welcomed two Michelin-star chef, James Close to the programme for the first time. The North East chef cooked on the show, while a delighted James Martin urged viewers to visit the restaurant, saying his experience was "the best meal I've ever eaten in the UK."

The restaurant, at Summerhouse near Darlington, has previously featured on the hit BBC series, Masterchef the Professionals, but this is the first time James has appeared on live daytime television. His dish of Tagliolini Carbonara, which included fresh truffle, was greeted with huge enthusiasm by both the TV chef and his guest, Cherry Healey.

The appearance, with James supported by his sous chef, Maria Guseva, also showcased the restaurant's signature chocolate skull, which has a filling of yuzu, Japanese black pepper and popping candy.

"It was a fantastic experience and of course I was delighted to hear James say that the best meal he's ever had in the UK was with us," said James. The programme is still available to watch via the ITV hub. Further information about the restaurant is available at www.rabyhuntrestaurant.co.uk

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CPI Partners with LiNa Energy

CPI recently announced the success of its £250,000 collaborative project with LiNa Energy (LiNa) and Lancaster University to demonstrate the proof-of-concept of LiNa's novel sodium-nickel-chloride battery technology. LiNa's battery is a radical alternative to the incumbent lithium-cobalt ion battery, offering cheaper, more efficient, better-performing, smaller and



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safer energy storage. With further development, this technology could help to transform the automotive and power grid industries by facilitating the switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. There are significant pressures on industry to decarbonise and limit the impacts of climate change. Cheap, scalable batteries could greatly increase the capacity to store and exploit energy from renewable sources. At present, lithium-cobalt ion batteries, the current gold standard of battery technologies, are failing to fulfil this role. They are limited by low operating temperatures (<60°C) that require complex and costly system packages. Moreover, the rapidly increasing cost of cobalt due to limited global reserves – together with safety concerns and issues with weight and cost – all contribute to an urgent and growing demand for alternative battery technologies.

CPI has partnered with LiNa Energy, a Lancaster-based SME, and the University of Lancaster to modernise the sodium-nickel-chloride battery and meet this demand. The battery is composed of highly recyclable and low-cost materials that crucially do not include cobalt or lithium. Moreover, by operating at a higher temperature than lithium-ion batteries, LiNa's technology promises to deliver an enhanced performance. This will help to facilitate the wide-scale adoption of batteries in sectors such as electric vehicles and renewable grid storage.

Funded by Innovate UK, CPI leveraged its expertise in battery technology and state-of-the-art facilities to investigate processing methodologies and to help develop the proof-of-concept for the large-scale, low-cost manufacture of LiNa's technology. The project was completed successfully, demonstrating LiNa's novel sodium-nickel-chloride battery in operation.

This success has enabled LiNa to secure a prestigious UK grant for a £1 million project and close a significant capital raise. In addition, CPI, LiNa Energy and Lancaster University have continued their collaboration, submitting a further grant application for development funding.

Dr Gene Lewis, LiNa Energy Chief Executive said: "I am delighted with the outcomes of our collaboration with CPI. This project has advanced our sodium-nickel-chloride battery technology, demonstrating its enormous potential to decarbonise automotive transport and provide efficient and effective energy storage solutions."

Tony Jackson, Formulation Business Unit Director at CPI said: "The unique formulation capabilities provided by CPI have helped to prove that sodium-nickel-chloride battery technology can overcome the drawbacks to lithium-ion batteries. By demonstrating the technology's low-cost scalability and higher operating efficiency, this project will play a crucial role in decarbonising the automotive and power grid industries."

IN THIS TOGETHER



Dear Sir,
Depression and suicide is on the rise, and the after affects of several suicides in a short period has been felt by the community in Newton Aycliffe.

I have started a Facebook page with a group of like minded friends, where we are posting info on healthy habits to improve mental health, events that people can attend, some of which we will create ourselves and in the long run are looking to raise money to assist those in a state of desperation to get counselling within a couple of days, by paying for them to see someone privately.

We are wanting to raise awareness of our Facebook page and initiative to try and help as many people as possible.

The page is called 'In This Together' or our www.facebook.com/inthistogtherne
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Apprenticeships Available at Bishop College

Bishop Auckland College marked National Apprenticeship Week in the best possible way – by advertising its latest batch of job vacancies.

A number of employers the college supports with apprenticeship training are looking for their latest new recruits, and the adverts went live last week.

The vacancies include two trainee chef positions at a pub and a bistro, an apprentice warehouse operative post at an electrical wholesaler, and apprenticeships in a

nursery, letting agents and beauty salon. Engineering vacancies include CAD Advanced Apprenticeships in Newton Aycliffe and Barnard Castle, and Metal Fabricator Advanced Apprenticeships in Shildon and Bishop Auckland.

The announcement of the new jobs coincide with National Apprenticeship Week from February 3 to February 9, an annual celebration of apprenticeships.

Coordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service, this year's theme is 'Look Beyond', which aims to showcase the diversity and value apprenticeships bring to employers, apprentices and communities across England.

Among the many trainees already on Bishop

Auckland College's books and enjoying their apprenticeships are Harry Bell and Thomas Lavender, who do their day release at the college's engineering training provider South West Durham Training in Newton Aycliffe.

Harry, 17, of Crook, is in the first year of his Advanced Apprenticeship in Engineering Technical Support, having decided an A level in engineering he was studying wasn't for him. He is training to be an Apprentice Design Engineer at Millmasters International in Newton Aycliffe, and when he has successfully completed his apprenticeship, will create tooling designs, design production machines and also be involved in creating their operating manuals.

Harry said: "I like the apprenticeship as I get to see both sides of the job - the college, academic part, but also I feel like I am contributing to the company when I am at work. I feel the work/college balance is right

for me."

Thomas, 20, of Billingham, is in the third year of his Advanced Apprenticeship – Design and Draughtsperson, which incorporates an HNC in engineering.

He had left school unsure whether to pursue an academic or vocational engineering route and said: "I chose a mix of the two and went and did a two year BTEC Level 3 in Engineering. When the opportunity of an apprenticeship as CAD designer came up locally, I took it."

The opportunity was with M5Tec, a bespoke engineering design solutions company specialising in areas such as nuclear, oil and gas and renewable energies. Thomas added: "As M5Tec have invested their time in me, and continue to do so, I feel I am an integral part of its ongoing growth."

For more information on current apprenticeship vacancies, visit: bacoll.ac.uk/ApprenticeVacancies and swdt.co.uk/students/apprenticeship-vacancies

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Council Funding Success Will Help Meet Housing Needs

More than £1.7million in funding has been secured to help meet housing needs in the North East.

Durham County Council has been successful in two applications to the government which will support the development of a local lettings agency, and pay for both emergency accommodation and the continuation of workers who will help those with a housing need.

The funding comes from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative for 2020-21.

The council has been

given just over £269,000 towards its ongoing work to establish the lettings agency for County Durham. The agency will acquire five year leases on private properties across the county and use these homes for those who currently struggle to access housing.

It has also been given just under £1.5m following an application it led on behalf of eleven North East councils.

This will pay for the continuation of SSTs (Somewhere Safe to Stay) across the region. These are sites at which up to seven days emergency accommodation is provided for those who are not eligible for temporary.

It will also continue to fund two regional coordinators, a prison housing worker, a specialist substance misuse worker and tenancy sustainment officers.

CLr Kevin Shaw, the council's Cabinet member for strategic housing and assets, said: "We are delighted to have been successful in these two applications for funding. "The money for the agency will help as we begin the process of leasing properties for use by people on their own, couples and families in need.

"The regional application will fund the creation of more emergency accommodation

across the North East as well as staff to help those with a housing need. We are also hopeful that it will allow a pot of money to be set aside so that services can be bought in to support complex clients."

The agency will provide people with direct support to help them maintain their tenancies and over the longer term it will develop its own housing stock.

The other North East councils on whose behalf the regional bid was submitted are: Stockton Borough, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland Borough, Darlington Borough, Gateshead, Sunderland City, South Tyneside, North Tyneside and Northumberland County. The funding follows the council's success in securing money through the government's Rapid Rehousing Pathway last year, for both the lettings agency and a regionwide assessment centre split across two hubs which will give rough sleepers immediate access to SSTs while suitable housing is identified.

In July last year, the council's Cabinet approved the creation of housing and homelessness strategies for County Durham, following consultation with residents and other stakeholders.

Pets

DOG WALKING (Dave Oliver) Daytime, half hour sessions £5.50 per dog. Police checked and fully insured. Years of experience in dog handling. Tel 07756 825637

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TOWN COUNCIL THANK 102 BATTALION REME



Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to thank 102 Battalion REME for their assistance in removing a burnt out car on Horndale playing fields. The car, which had been burnt out after becoming

bogged down on the soft muddy surface was proving difficult to recover using standard recovery techniques and was becoming a potentially sharp and dangerous gathering point for local youths.

For this reason the Council were keen to get the vehicle moved to safety at the earliest opportunity. The 102 Battalion REME offered to assist their local community by removing the vehicle using their long winches and cranes as part of a training exercise.

The car was removed in a very professional manner without causing any more significant damage to the field.

Thank you to the men of 102 Battalion REME who organised the recovery on behalf of Great Aycliffe Town Council.

SAMARITANS - 13 Woodland Road, Darlington. We are here for you 24 hours a day. Tel: Freephone 116123.



& newtonnews

FIND A DOG a home

Rescue Dog - Simba

Simba, a two-year-old Japanese Akita cross Inu currently in the care of Dogs Trust Darlington, is out to find his special someone this Valentine's Day. Simba is just one of 65 canine residents at Dogs Trust who are on the lookout for loving new homes this year.

Simba, named after the popular Walt Disney character for his Lion-like appearance, has the heart, energy and nobility his namesake would suggest. He needs a family that will dedicate time to his training programme and will help him find his feet in his new home.

Although Simba is far from lonely at the rehoming centre, if he were to take out a 'lonely hearts' advert, his perfect match would offer him:

- The opportunity to learn new things and for his personality to shine
- An adult only home where he is the only pet
- A garden for playing with his favourite toys
- Someone who has as much enthusiasm for life as he does

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas - or Valentine's Day - so if you are ready to commit to a lifelong relationship could handsome boy Simba be the one for you?

Dogs Trust Darlington has an amazing selection of potential canine companions, of all shapes, sizes, ages and breeds that are looking for a wide variety of homes. For more information on Simba or any of the other lovely dogs we have at the centre, please contact the team on 01325638143, visit the website or email us at Darlington@dogstrust.org.uk



Sudoku (Easy, difficulty rating 0.36)

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

New Youth Council for County Durham

Young people are being invited to share their views about issues that affect them by joining a new youth council.

Durham County Council is recruiting young people aged 11 to 17 to sit on the youth council, which will offer a platform for them to share their opinions on a range of topics affecting the whole county.

Run by young people, for young people, the council will meet monthly and will set its own agenda based on this issues that young people feel most strongly about.

The group will be granted its own budget to spend on projects that benefit young people across the county. Its members will also be involved in planning events, including an awards event to celebrate the achievements of the county's children and young people and campaigns based on local results from the UK's largest youth consultation, Make Your Mark.

Each of the county's secondary schools and sixth form colleges will choose two representatives to sit on the council through a democratic election. Two seats will also be reserved for children who are currently looked after by the council and those who aren't currently attending school.

Young people who are interested in joining the youth council should speak to their school or college, where elections will be held in February and March, or apply online at www.durham.gov.uk/youthvoice. Olwyn Gunn, the council's Cabinet member for Children and Young People's Services, said: "All children and young people have a right to have their opinions heard on matters which affect them. The youth council will give them an important chance to share their views."

"It will also offer us a fantastic opportunity to discuss young people's concerns with them which will help us to plan council services which best meet their needs."

Once in post, the council's members will also be able to put themselves forward to be elected as one of County Durham's representatives on the UK

Youth Parliament. The two successful candidates will share the voices of young people in our region at regional and national meetings, including during the House of Commons in November.

Further information about the youth council can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/youthvoice or by emailing youthvoice@durham.gov.uk or calling 03000 267 974.

FESTIVAL OF MATHS



Twelve Year 8 and 9 students from Woodham Academy visited The Centre for Life, Newcastle to take part in a Festival of Maths event. 'The Centre for Life has worked with the maths education department of Sunderland University to develop a selection of exciting hands-on maths activities that show that maths is so much more than a dull succession of paper exercises'.

The students investigated the orbits of satellites around the earth and had a

go at reading the weather forecast in the Space Zone before learning about using the stars to navigate in the Planetarium. They had several logic puzzles to solve, using pirate treasure and coins, and launched rockets they had built in the Explorer Zone. The afternoon sessions focused on mobius strips, using bagels, and the mathematics of card tricks.

The students all did really well with some difficult maths problems and all enjoyed the day.



Valentine's Greetings

Crozzier

Happy Valentine's Day

Love, Joker
xxxxxx

A Wonderful Wife

Happy Valentine's Day
& Happy Anniversary
Love you lots
From your Husband xxxx

In Memoriam

Colin MacCormack (Mac)

In loving memory of my beloved Husband. Rest peaceful bonnie lad, till we meet again. My love always. June. God bless xxxx

Colin MacCormack (Mac)

In loving memory of our wonderful Dad and Grandad. Miss you every day Dad. From Ian, Heena, Andrew, Tina, Rachel and Philip. Loads of hugs and kisses from Rebecca, Cameron and Haley xxxx

Colin MacCormack (Mac)

Just a prayer from those who love you. Just a memory ever true. In our hearts you will live forever. Because we thought the world of you. Rob and June.

Paul Stevens

Memory is a loving thing, it lasts the longest day, it can never be spent, never be lent. Never be taken away.

A precious Son, Brother. Loved always, Mam, Dad, June and family xxxx

Billy Wilson 28/3/1930-10/2/2019

You ask me do I need you; must I explain? I miss you darling Billy, like roses need the rain.

You ask how much I love you! I'll tell you true, until the 12th of never, I'll still be loving you.
Your Wife, Jean xxxx

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Obituary

Lilian Carr

Passed away peacefully on 5th February, aged 86 years. Beloved Mam of Colin, Val and Carol; Grandma of Lee and Emma. Funeral to take place on Thursday 20th February at St. Clare's Church at 9.45am.

Gavin Semple

Passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family on 10th February, aged 57 years. Devoted Partner to Christine; loving Dad to Lynsey and Ashley; loving Father-in-Law to Neil and Kimberley; devoted Grandad to Katie, Joshua and Holly; Loving Son, Brother, Brother-in-Law and friend to many. Funeral to be held Thursday 20th February, 2.15pm at Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations for St Theresa's Hospice.

Joan Parker

78 years young. Passed away on Friday 31st January in hospital. Funeral to be held at the Methodist Church in Shildon at 10.45am on Wednesday 19th February.

Keith Douglas Johnson Aycliffe Village

Aged 71 years, died peacefully in hospital on Saturday 8th February. Dearly loved Husband of Patricia; a much loved Brother, Brother-in-Law, Uncle and Great Uncle. Would friends please meet at St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village on Wednesday 19th February for a Service at 11.40am, followed by Committal at Wear Valley Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu, may be left in the collection plate for the family's chosen charities.

Congratulations

Michael Charles

To a very special Grandson, Michael Charles, on his 8th birthday. Happy birthday Son. Nana and Grandad love you so much xxx

To my special Cousin Michael and my best friend. Happy birthday. Love you always, Ruby xxx

To my Cousin, happy birthday Michael. Love you lots. Tyler and Jamie xxx

To a special Son, Michael, on his 8th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Lucas and Harper xxx

To a special Nephew, Michael, happy 8th birthday. Love you lots, Uncle Paul and Auntie Emma xxx

To my Nephew Michael, happy 8th birthday. Love you always. Auntie Lyndsey xxx

Godfrey Bennett



Happy 80th Birthday
Lots of love on your special day, Shirley

Dad
Have a lovely day celebrating. Love from Deborah, Lesley, Lynne and families

Andrea Cairns Bentley 17th February 1970



50 YEARS
Where did they go? Andrea, you live the highs and face the lows full on. Enjoy your celebrations. Love from Mam, Dad, "all family" and many, many friends.

Paula Carney

Don't worry it's only a number! Enjoy celebrating. All our love Chris, Michelle, Jack & Joe xxxx

Thank You

Thank You

Can I thank Councillor Eddy Adam for all his help and assistance getting a problem sorted for me. I really appreciate his efforts and messages, keeping me updated. Irene Hewitson

Birthday Remembrance

Audrey

Thinking of you on this special day. Happy Birthday Audrey. Love, Rich, Deb & family



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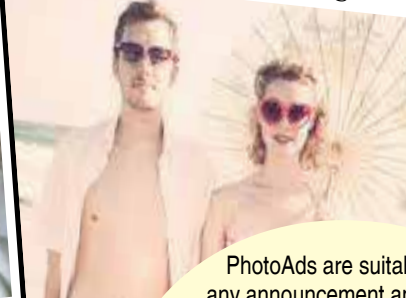
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Alice Springs



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Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



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on 1st Jan
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We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

N.A.F.C. REPORT

Saturday 8 February
Ebac Northern League Division One
Newton Aycliffe 0 v North Shields 1

Newton Aycliffe can consider themselves unlucky to lose 1-0 to North Shields at the Beaumont Landscapes stadium. They were the better team but went down to a goal in injury time at the end of the match. In-form striker Adam Burnicle was ruled out with injury, and centre half Liam McNamara was playing his last game before moving to Australia.

Aycliffe started brightly, with Ethan Wood bringing a fine save from Shields keeper Purvis. Then Matty Pennal shot over the bar. Liam Jarvie got through and was denied by another good save from Purvis. Aycliffe keeper Adam Pickford was called into his first real action on 35 minutes, but was equal to the shot. Right on half time, Lewis Walton fired a shot just wide of the post. Kev Carr replaced Pennal at half time. Aycliffe put together a good team move ten minutes in, but when the ball reached Jarvie, his effort didn't trouble Purvis.



Aycliffe had a strong penalty shout turned down on 65 minutes. They kept pressing and Shields cleared the ball off the line on two occasions.

North Shields looked dangerous on the counter-attack, Pickford having to make a good save from Carr. Campbell then broke through the Aycliffe line and lobbed Pickford, only to see his effort go wide. Shields broke the deadlock two minutes into injury time. The ball was played into the box and Patton found the corner of the net. It was harsh on Aycliffe, but it was North Shields who took all three points. Next match is at home to Seaham Red Star on Saturday (Feb 15, 3pm). Photo: Man of the Match Jake Petitjean



RUGBY UPDATE

With Newton Aycliffe 1st XV taking a league break, the club managed to rally The Newtonians to play at home against Stocktonians. It's been over 2 years since the Newtonians last played. It was a delight to see several old boys come to play a fixture in decent conditions during the calm before storm Ciara was to arrive. It turned out when the rallying call went out a plethora of players became available. Once more the Aycliffe rugby fans turned out in numbers and gave great support to both teams throughout this friendly fixture.

Stockton were the first to score an unconverted try 0-5 (5 mins) whilst Aycliffe were still trying to settle themselves into the game. It was the large Aycliffe pack who decided to settle first and started to dominate the scrums. A surging forwards attack saw them awarded a scrum 5 metres from the try line. Aycliffe powerfully

pushed over the line for No 8 Craig Holmes to touch down. Despite reasonably calm conditions the conversion was missed. 5-5 (18 mins). This try lifted Aycliffe and from the restart, second row Adam Winterburn collected the ball from kick off and with his trademark leggy run of 55 meters went over virtually unchallenged due to his speed to score under the posts. This made the conversion easy for Euan Kitching. 12-5 (20 mins). From the next restart the ball was spun out to winger Kitching who did not hesitate to kick over the Stockton defence and chase his own kick to score from this masterly piece of enterprise. Unfortunately, he missed his own conversion. 17-5 (22 mins). From that moment Stockton tightened up their defence and their back row started to harass Aycliffe's defence. This hard work paid off allowing Stockton to score twice 17-10 (27 mins)

and with a converted try on (38 mins) 17-17 remained the score at half time.

Stocktonians were showing themselves to be tough opponents. It was clear some of the Aycliffe old boys had put on a bit of poundage since they last played rugby and substitutions were inevitable. While Aycliffe were trying to blend in the replacements Stockton took advantage and scored their 4th try unconverted soon after the second half restart. 17-22 (42 mins). A period of stalemate ensued as both teams settled into a ping pong battle of great tackling to snuff out each other's surging attacking moves. Aycliffe back row Chris Knight was seen all over the pitch cutting the opposition down like a Knight through butter. Aycliffe eventually broke the deadlock and once again the piroouetting techniques of No 8 Holmes allowed him to storm over to touch down, and Kitching converted. 24-22 (54 mins). Aycliffe, now back in the lead, spurred the team to attack at every opportunity. Winterburn used his pace once again to score his brace. The try unconverted. 29-22 (57 mins). Aycliffe's biggest man on the pitch decided to get in on the act and launched his large voluptuous frame up the pitch on his own. He managed a good 30 odd yards to be scythed down by the smallest man on the pitch. A great effort by the huge prop Daniel Chamberlain but it took him some time to recover on the floor due to the lack of oxygen available from the side-line. He went on to finish the match I'm glad to report. Stockton countered from this and went on to put themselves back in contention with another unconverted try. 29-27 (62 mins). Sensing danger centre James Thacker took it upon himself to ghost thought the Stockton defence like a shimmering wind down the left touchline and mesmerised the visitors and the fans with a 75-metre solo effort. Conversion missed. 34-27 (66 mins). As the game was nearing the end Stockton caused concern amongst the Aycliffe fans as they launched what was to be their final successful attack to try and level the score. They managed the try but missed the conversion. 34-32 (75 mins). Aycliffe held out to win this enthralling match, well done to both teams. A great day of rugby unless you are a Scotland fan, as most went back to the club house to watch England beat Scotland in the 6 Nations afterwards. Aycliffe thank club sponsors Carmel Safety Training Services Ltd for their continued support. Aycliffe return to League duty this Saturday 15th February at home, kick off 2.15pm. The opponents are Wallsend who are currently 2nd in the table behind Redcar. A match to relish by all rugby fans in Newton Aycliffe who will be made most welcome at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club on Moore Lane.



Beginners Beekeeping Course

Aycliffe Beekeepers Association is running a beekeeping course for beginners. It will be held at Moore Lane Eco Centre in Newton Aycliffe on the weekend of the 16th and 17th May 2020 between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

It covers the history of beekeeping, how a hive is put together, the beekeeping year, how to spot and control pests and diseases, what to do when bees swarm and how to stop them, and how to access further education and literature. It is open to all ages and costs £50.00 for an individual and £75.00 for a couple. All equipment is provided and we make sure that you get a cup of coffee, bring your own lunch. To discuss this further and to reserve your place please contact the training officer, Chris Barker on 07421 471581 or email training.aycliffebka@gmail.com. Further practical training for students from this course, at no additional charge, is offered at the apiary in St Oswald's allotments over the Summer.

LUKE BACK ON FORM



Former Sunderland winger, Luke Molyneux, marked his first start of the season for Hartlepool United with a goal and an assist in a comfortable 2-0 win over Aldershot Town.

Following a few brief appearances off the bench, Luke was finally handed his first start of the season by the Manager, Dave Challinor. Luke marked his comeback from a six-month foot injury nightmare with a goal and an assist inside the opening 20 minutes. The former Sunderland winger turned in Rob Harker's ball just five minutes in, before his corner set up Mark Shelton to double the host's advantage. This was Luke's first start in a competitive game since he suffered a terrible ankle injury in a pre-season friendly

game against York back in August.

On his injury, Luke said: "It was definitely frustrating to be out for so long and not really being involved with the lads. It's been pretty tough but I worked hard to get back and I did everything I could to get back. And now I feel a lot fitter and stronger than I did, probably even in pre-season, so it's helped me mentally as well as physically. It's been tough but it's been worth it. I'm obviously buzzing to be back involved and ready to go again next week against Solihull Moors."

The day was a day of 'Firsts' for Luke: First start, First goal, First assist, First MOTM and First time included in the Vanarama Team of the Week.

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