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HONEST JOHN RETIRES DUE TO ILL HEALTH

Newton News is sad to report that Honest John is no longer able to continue with his charity work.

John has had a rough couple of months, having lost a lot of weight and not feeling well for some time. He has also spent a stint in hospital, which proved unsuccessful in diagnosing his condition. John has reported that he is unable to continue with the charity shop and wished Newton News to pass on his thanks and appreciation to the residents of Newton Aycliffe who have not only donated to the shop, but also helped raise over £220,000 in the last 12 years, purchasing goods to help town organisations. We hope to report good news

in the near future, regarding John's health, but we wish John a speedy recovery and wish him well for the future. John said, "It has been a fantastic journey over the last 12+ years. It all started on a two table, uncovered stall on a constantly raining Tuesday market day in October 2007. The stall site and storage cost £30 per week, fair enough, not a lot, but I took £11 on my first week."

"I liked to think of myself as the 'Lone Raiser' (I have always liked Western movies, so why not?), but instead I became 'Honest John', a name usually associated with dodgy, rogue car dealers. It suited my sense of humour,



Honest John's Fundraising Stall. Then in 2013, when I became a registered charity, John's Aycliffe Community Kitty (Jack) arrived".

John continued, "never in a thousand years could I have ever dreamed that in 12 years, £11 would become £220,000. I will always feel honoured to have had the trust, belief and support of thousands of donors and customers over those years. It has been one big community effort to get to this stage in my fundraising. It has not been hard work, but it has been 100% pleasure". Unfortunately my health has let me down and now there is no alternative for me but to close up shop and the charity".

"I would like to thank Paul Howarth, the Market Traders, Bryan Haldane, Newton Press, DISC, Syd Howarth, Roger Pounder (Trustee), MP Paul Howell, Arun Chandran, Little Margaret and not forgetting my biggest supporter and the love of my life, Val. I have suffered many long term health issues during my fundraising years and you, the good people of Newton Aycliffe, have helped me in many ways and given me the strength to carry on. Through your support and encouragement I will never forget and I thank you all so very much".

Continued on page 3

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New Group for Autistic, Learning Difficulties & Additional Needs

Dear Sir,
I would like to welcome your readers to 'Unlimited' - a new group which organises friendly events for those with Autism, Learning Disabilities and Additional Needs.

This group has been created to give children, teenagers and young adults, with any form of additional need, the opportunity to experience new and exciting events.

I have over eight years of experience working with, and supporting, young adults with learning difficulties, autism and additional needs, I understand that there aren't enough opportunities for them to take part in, and experience certain types of events within the local area.

Our goal at Unlimited is to change that, and organise events and activities which may otherwise be difficult to access due to a range of barriers.

These events include party nights, karaoke evenings, sporting clubs/events, fitness sessions and dance classes, to name a few. We aim to be fully inclusive and make the necessary adjustments, taking into consideration individual needs and/or requirements of those attending the events.

Not only will these events be great for the social interaction and forming new relationships, but we have an holistic approach and hope to promote physical activity and mental well-being in addition to the social aspect.

Check out our Facebook page "Unlimited Darlington" for more details.

Luke Scarr

Unlimited Darlington

Council Joins Campaign to Protect Victims of Domestic Abuse



A North East council has signed the Work to Stop Domestic Abuse charter as part of GMB's campaign for greater support for employees experiencing domestic abuse. Durham County Council pledged to support employees who are experiencing domestic abuse to access support services and information confidentially.

Cllr Simon Henig, council leader; Terry Collins, the council's chief executive; and Joy Thompson, GMB branch secretary, signed the charter at the council's County Hall headquarters. They were joined by Cllr Alan Napier, the council's deputy leader; Cllr Angela Surtees, Cabinet member for Social Inclusion; Cllr Andrea Patterson, Cabinet member for Corporate Services and Rural Issues, including HR; Cllr Lucy Hovvels, Cabinet member for Adult and Health Services; John Hewitt, corporate director of resources; Jane Robinson, corporate director of adult and health services; Amanda Healy, director of public health; and union representatives Julie Wynn, Tracy Metcalfe, David Clegg and Les Timbey from GMB, who

all pledged their support for the campaign.

GMB's Work to Stop Domestic Abuse, Employer Charter calls on employers to pledge to support employees experiencing domestic abuse to ensure that they will not be disadvantaged at work.

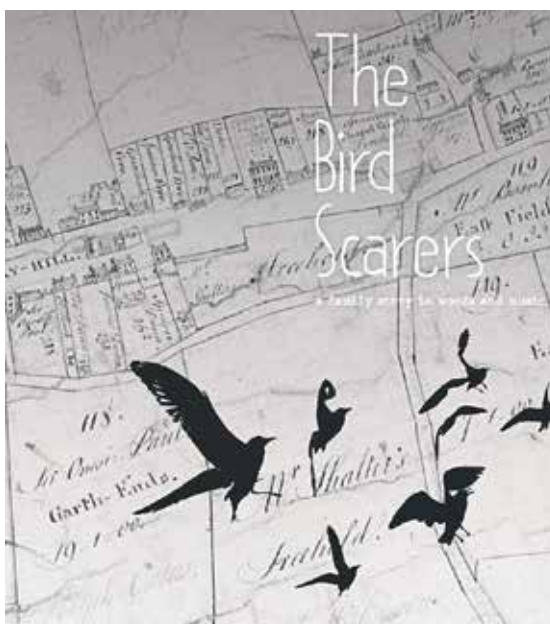
In signing the charter, the council has confirmed that it will take measures to facilitate the workplace needs of employees who are experiencing domestic abuse; is committed to helping employees easily and discretely access practical and emotional support; has promised to work with other organisations to offer the best available support; and pledged to train its staff

to provide support in the workplace.

Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "As an employer who cares about the impact of domestic abuse on our employees, we are committed to providing them with the best support we can."

"The latest available figures show that an estimated 1.3 million women and 695,000 men aged 16 to 59 experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales in a year. It's essential that as a council we work not just to stop abuse but that we take responsibility as an employer to protect our workforce where we can and remove any avoidable stress."

Arts Centre Welcome 'The Birdscarers'



Greenfield Arts are delighted to welcome The Birdscarers, a live performance including live music and spoken word bringing to life the heritage of our area. Gary Chaplin and Michael Chaplin are cousins who share the same lineage and legacy. Michael's father, Sid Chaplin, is a renowned author and screenwriter. The Birdscarers will take place at Greenfield Arts on Thursday 12th March at 6:30pm and costs just £5.00 a ticket.

You can book your place via the website using the simple online form, visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk or call 01325 379048 for further details or for group bookings.

Gary and Michael have been performing in venues throughout the north east attracting audiences and great reviews. Greenfield Arts are committed to bringing high quality Arts, including live performances to the community and look forward to what promises to be a wonderful evening.

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

Saturday 29th February - "Four Letter Word"

Taking songs from a wide range of genres from 70's to current day including Rock / Punk / Indie / Ska / Britpop - even a bit of "cheese" along the way, when it fits.

Bands covered include: Small Faces, Led Zeppelin, Sex Pistols, Oasis, Jam, Killers, Stereophonics, Kaiser Chiefs and much more

Saturday 7th March - "7 Sins"

Saturday 14th March - "The Whole Hog"

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MINI POLICE ON LITTER PATROL



The Mini Police from St. Joseph's Primary School were joined by PCSO's Hill and Walls recently to litter pick in their local community. Even though the weather was not on their side they still managed to collect a lot of litter. A job well done.

Land Rover 4x4 Challenge Regional Finals Held at UTC South Durham



UTC South Durham hosted the Regional Finals of the Landrover 4x4 in Schools Challenge on Friday 7th February. The annual competition sees teams of students from across the region competing for a range of prizes, including the opportunity to go through to the National Finals.

From September 2019 onwards, students were required to work in teams of up to six people to develop and modify a small radio-controlled vehicle. There are three different entry classes: Entry, Development, and Professional. Two teams from UTC South Durham took part: students from Year 10 competed in the Development class, and students from Year 11 in the Professional class.

UTC's engineering hall was transformed into an exhibition space featuring miniature display showrooms designed by the teams, and two tracks set-up by the Land Rover Challenge. The tracks were designed to test the vehicles' ability to tackle difficult terrain, and the teams' control of the vehicle.

The teams from UTC performed well: the Year 10 Development team won the ACES Challenge Award for cars of the future, and the Year 11 Professional entry team won awards for Sponsorship and Marketing, Team Showroom, and the Portfolio Award for the best portfolio two years running. The event was judged by individuals from North-East based businesses and organisations, including STEM Ambassador Tony Swanwick.

Tony said: "Having observed many STEM events hosted by different companies I feel that the Land Rover 4x4 competition is one of the best in its class. In a very practical way it forges together valuable learning experiences in the form of a design challenge, competition, teamwork, manufacturing skills, product testing and verbal communication. Acting as a STEM



Ambassador to support UTC students with this challenge, and seeing the enthusiasm and energy they have for it, is rewarding in itself. Being a judge at the event not only helps to make it a success, but also allowed me to see how

many of the students from schools across the area work together so enthusiastically on the day. The award ceremony at the end of the competition truly recognises and celebrates their efforts and achievement."



PARLIAMENT TALK

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

Last week saw me meeting with the North East CBI on Wednesday before on Thursday I had the highlight of my week. I met with a group of young ambassadors from primary schools near Ferryhill. We met at Dean Bank Junior School where I was able to take questions from the children before looking in the old school registers and finding the entries from when I was a pupil there. I also offered to visit each of the schools individually for a longer session with more pupils. To see their curiosity and engagement was an absolute delight.

I have started to engage with some APPG's in Westminster, these are All Party Political Groups and are informal cross-party groups that have no official

status within Parliament. They are run by and for Members of the Commons and Lords, though many choose to involve individuals and organisations from outside Parliament in their administration and activities and they are a means of drawing attention to a subject and potentially making recommendations to Government. So far I have joined APPG's for Industrial Heritage, Coalfield Communities and Dignity in Dying. The range of subjects is incredible with substantially more APPG's than Members of Parliament reflecting the many agendas people are interested in. Enjoy your week.

Paul Howell MP
Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

HONEST JOHN RETIRES DUE TO ILL HEALTH



Continued from front page
Honest John has helped many organisations in Newton Aycliffe averaging approximately £20,000 per annum, details of organisations who have been helped can be found on his website www.jack4.co.uk - many of the groups John helped received an annual donation, and not just a one off payment.

John moved from a weekly market stall to a shop in Humankind (DISC) next to the Blue Bridge, up until the end of August 2018, then moving into a larger self contained unit at 29 Durham Way South, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.

John would like to thank everyone who has either donated goods to the cause, purchased an item or made a monetary donation, "I will be forever grateful to the generous residents of Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area who have helped to raise many thousands of pounds for needy community groups and organisations", said John.

Over 120 local charities and organisations have been helped over the last 12 years by John's kindness and generosity, and Newton News would like to record their thanks on behalf of the community for a job well done.

Honest John - Please Note:

John is currently convalescing at home and has requested not to be disturbed, please do not ring or call at his home. Cards and messages can be relayed through Newton Press.

Aycliffe Village AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association takes place on Friday 20th March, in the Village Hall at 7.00pm.

This is a chance for residents and visitors to find out what has been happening over the past year and the committee would also welcome any ideas for events or activities for the year ahead. Hope to see you there!

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"Aycliffe Rep Lies"

Dear Sir,
Panic is setting in with our local Labour Party who are resorting to character assassination in an hysterical attempt to discredit other candidates in the upcoming election for the Woodham seat.

Aycliffe Rep Lies pops up as soon as the Labour party feels threatened. Presumably their next move will be to threaten the gassing of all who vote against them.

Let us be under no illusion, the current Labour Party has been hijacked by momentum, who are the very people rejected by the electorate at the recent general election and who refuse to learn the lessons from that exercise. Aycliffe people are, in my opinion, well-educated, sensible and informed. We reject brainwashing by those

NASSL REQUIRE YOUR HELP

Dear Sir,
We have a large number of cats and kittens looking for new homes (home check will be done). Adoption fee will apply to help us to help more animals in need of help. Please contact Pauline Wilson on 01325 321855 for information.

We urgently need wet cat food and cat litter, also small animal food for hamster/rabbit etc., and wild bird seed for the project feed the wild birds around the town in the feeding stations.

To help support us with the great work we do donations are accepted at drop off points at Tesco, Grannies Choice and Julies Pet Shop please support us to help more animals in need.

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Labour politicians who always seem to think they have all the answers whilst attempting to browbeat others on social media.

Opposition representatives on our town council are derided for listening to debate rather than pushing political dogma in the chamber. Surely, we were given two ears and one mouth for a reason.

In a recent campaign whereupon livin wished to rehouse residents against their will in the Williamfield Way area, I recall that two I N D E P E N D E N T councillors took up the baton to fight for the people while Labour Councillors either stood back or supported livin in their quest to demolish homes which had nothing wrong with them.

Labour continually put forward young candidates for the Town Council, yet these candidates are never seen in the public gallery of the council, observing and listening. I would also draw the public's attention to the last young Labour Councillor who drew £1000 in allowances for attending one meeting of an hour's duration. Then both resigning just prior to getting kicked off for 6 months non attendance. If the Labour Party wish to allow their members to write poisonous letters to the media, I would suggest that they drop Aycliffe from their name as not everyone in Newton Aycliffe wishes to be associated with such drivel.

Great Aycliffe Council is a progressive forum and would benefit from 30 independent minds working for the common good of its residents. Who cares what the beliefs are of individuals, as long as their focus is on our lovely town? Sadly, it appears this will not be achieved until party politics is eradicated.
Ken Robson



STOP THE CHILDISH SQUABBLING

Dear Sir,

Why do our councillors continue to squabble like unruly children in your paper, instead of just getting on with the job in hand?

We are sick of reading their bitter back biting and childish behaviour (ie: he/she said this or that, or he/she did the other).

For goodness sake, just behave like adults and get on with the job you were elected to do.

A disgusted voter

Name & address supplied

DO WE KNOW WHO IS WRITING TO THE NEWTON NEWS?

Dear Sir,

'Aycliffe Reply' are clearly of the Momentum/Labour persuasion. Their modus operandi are straight out of the Momentum handbook. They take quotes out of context from one national political debate (Brexit) and then try to sully the good name of an Independent candidate for a local election. Why not have the courage of your convictions? Publish your names.

Let the public know that you think insinuating that a non-racist, is in fact racist, is an acceptable political argument.

How politically inept can they be? They called Leavers, who wanted to end the racist E.U. Freedom of Movement Policy, which favoured white E.U. citizens over white and coloured citizens from the rest of the world, racists. Fortunately, the majority of the electorate (All Morons, according to Momentum/Labour Cllr. Beetham) saw through their twisted political thinking and voted for Brexit, twice. I answer YES to "Aycliffe Reply's" question, "Do you want someone with (Clive Taylor-Sholl's) views on your Town Council?". Why should taxpayers pay for a youth to 'learn on the job' (that is, be indoctrinated by hateful Councillors like Kathy Beetham) when there is the choice of a reasonable, mature, worldly wise, tolerant, candidate: Clive Taylor-Sholl?

Indeed, mainstream opinion is that the Local Labour Party should have thrown Cllr. Beetham out of their party for her hateful comments about Leavers. This being the case, I would suggest to the electorate of Woodham Ward that they have a duty NOT to elect the Labour Youth candidate, for his own good. Please save him from being indoctrinated by the hate-mongers that are allowed to flourish (anonymously) in the Local Labour Party.

Yours Sincerely
Alastair P.G. Welsh

Rebuilding Trust at Grassroots Level

Dear Sir,

I was very disappointed when we were unable to hold our Aycliffe Radio hustings. However, I was sent the questions I was going to be asked, so instead may I please answer them here in the Newton News?

I've lived in Aycliffe since a young age and went to local schools. Growing up here I have always been pleased with the amount of green space in the area, and the Labour led town council has always done a great job of maintaining and sustaining it. I'm standing as your candidate because I want to make a difference.

I want to get the youth of Newton Aycliffe a reliable voice on the council, improving communication and cooperation between the town council and young people. I also want to prove that young people CAN and want to get into Politics. I'm not standing as a one time candidate. I want to make a career out of politics.

I joined Labour in 2017, although I have usually always agreed with their policy, as a student at St. Francis and Greenfield, cuts to education led by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government affected me directly. Cuts to funding that still haven't been fully reversed. Labour represents those with the least and that is something that I believe is very important.

The key issue facing GATC at the moment is the lack of Representation and Diversity. I, unlike my opponents, am not yet another older man, I'm a young fresh face who wants to bring new ideas. Also I think I would be the first openly LGBT+ councillor which I think is very important in the modern climate.

But most of all I want to rebuild trust at grassroots level between our communities and those that represent them. Please vote for me in the Woodham Ward by-election, and I shall be your voice on our council

Thank You,
Brandon Fleet

Grassed Off In The Dark



Dear Sir,

Over the last few weeks I've been going around delivering leaflets and canvassing for both the Woodham By-Election and to listen to people's views across the whole of the County Electoral Division.

I've had to report dozens of different issues in the area, but one jumped out at me particularly. Ever since the streetlights were removed by the County Council on Burnhill Way in Woodham, residents have had to walk in the dark.

It was a crazy decision to do what they did and to make matters worse the footpath has become more and more overgrown, to the point where in places it is three feet narrower than it should be.

To see how bad it was I went out with a spade, dug it back and arranged for a photo to be sent to the County Council. I'm delighted to be able to report that they have committed to clearing the footpath back to its full and proper width.

I'd really like to find a way to get the lights reinstated but I expect that will take a bit longer! At least in the near future we won't have to worry about getting our feet covered in mud once the path is cut back.

This is one of many issues which I would have hoped would be dealt with in our area without the need for me to report it. Others include rotting flytipping on some of our estates, overflowing bins and footpaths breaking up so badly you can pick up pieces of them.

It was really concerning to find dumped fridges and freezers, which I have also reported, as they can be dangerous if children play with them and get stuck inside.

It is for these, and so many other reasons - including our unfair council tax - that I am standing for the Town Council and hope to be able

to get elected to the County Council too.

I think we've been let down by many local politicians - and some who don't even live here.

I simply want to try and improve our area for everyone. I really don't mind which way my fellow residents in Woodham normally vote. I just hope people will back me in the Woodham By-Election on March 5th so I can start to fix local problems and make our area a better place in which to live.

Kind regards
Michael Stead



Dear Sir,

'In This Together' would like to invite everyone to join us for our first walk and talk event. We'd love you to come and walk with us while we have a natter.

Exercise, fresh air and talking, all promote positive mental health and we think it's important our community makes a stand, and works together to support each other.

Men and women of any age are welcome, and you can bring along children and dogs too, as I know people can struggle to get childcare. Meet us at 11.00am on Sunday 23rd February, we will be meeting half way down Stephenson Way opposite the Junior School at the entrance to Great Aycliffe Walk (Woodham Burn side).

The walk is 2.3 miles and will be taken at a leisurely pace. Please wear sensible footwear and bring a waterproof.

Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/inthistogetherne

WRONG WARD, WRONG ELECTION

Dear Sir,

I was surprised to get an election leaflet from Michael Stead, standing for the forthcoming by-election for Great Aycliffe Town Council. I do not live in the Woodham Ward, therefore do not get a vote, it is obvious he was posting it in the wrong Ward.

Also it was all about the County Council. He is standing for the Town Council. He gives no indication of how he will change the town to make it better, given that the Town got a good report from local residents recently surveyed.

How does he think he will be able to do anything about business rates or roads or the two Tory Councillors? Why is he stood by a Middridge sign? There is no vacancy on the County Council.

He has got the wrong election as well as the wrong Ward. He obviously does not know what he is doing. Also, contesting this election will cost the tax payer £6,000, they will then need to stand again in 2021.

Regards
Vince Crosby
Hambleton Court
Byerley Park
(not Woodham)



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OFSTED quote: "Playday Nursery offers an outstanding provision with high quality teaching provided by highly qualified staff."

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MAN'S BEST FRIEND...

When, in 1993, I became Deputy Leader of the Council, and Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, replacing Cllr Chandran, I inherited a parlous financial situation. On the transfer of assets and liabilities from the Aycliffe and Peterlee Development Corporation, we received an extremely poor deal. Lots of liabilities and few good assets. Previous administrations had taken out numerous loans, some at 17.5%, and we were in a desperate situation for funds. There were no plans for the medium or long term, we were living from hand to mouth.

After 23 years as leader of the Council, and Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, I will leave the Council in 2021 with only one loan (taken out to build the Town Park). Balances of over £1 million and assets valued at £9 million. Our Medium Term Financial Plan predicts that, with prudent management, the Council will be able to maintain all current services for at least the next five years or longer, and our assets for the next 10 years.

On the recent survey of residents we received extremely favourable comments and satisfaction on our financial management and value for money.

As for a paper light communications system, and street lights on the A167 in 2025, I repeat that those will be decisions that the new councillors will have to make in 2021 and 2025. It will

be their decisions how our Council monies are spent and they will be answerable to the public for their management of your money. I, and the majority of councillors, do not wish to tie the hands of our successors. Unlike a famous Labour politician, I am not telling my successors the cupboard is bare. Funds will be there, providing they manage them wisely and don't indulge in expensive pipe dreams or pie in the sky projects.

Cllr Chandran writes about wisdom and friendship. I agree with his view that no one has a monopoly on wisdom, especially Cllr Chandran, but some of us are wiser than others. Wisdom comes from both good and bad experiences, learning from them and adjusting your actions and behaviour, but unfortunately some people continue to make the same mistakes time and time again. On the issue of friendship, I have many friends from my early days in Spennymoor, from my time in teaching, in the army and even in politics. Unfortunately, as time goes by, many good friends pass on. I still have some very close friends of many years, who are more like family than friends.

Cllr Chandran's friends apparently seem to come and go, a very sad statement. In danger of teaching old dogs new tricks, I would advise him to think deeply as to why he is unable to keep friends. Friendship is like other relationships, you get out of them what you invest in them. If you only take out, or



try to dominate, a friendship will not last long, and choose your friends wisely.

On my long-life journey, I admit I have made many mistakes, things that I have done and things I have not done. I also know that there are some people who dislike me, and even some who hate me. A very wise old politician advised me when I first came into local politics, that I was unlikely to make many friends. He said to me, 'Bob, if you enter politics and want a loyal and true friend, get a dog'.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Swim 10 Lengths for Darcey's Dream



Dear Sir,
I attended the Pioneering Care 20 year anniversary celebration event at Bowburn Hall Hotel on Friday 14th February.

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is a leading award winning charity whose mission is Health, Wellbeing and Learning for All. The PCP aims to support the development of individual

and community capacity by creating opportunities to improve the health, wellbeing and life chances of disadvantaged communities. The Pioneering Care Centre was established in 1998, and after 20 years has a highly experienced staff and volunteer team. The PCP engages with over 50,000 individuals each year.

I completed my #10lengthsfordarcey with Emelia-Paige, she is inspirational and is doing an amazing job with her campaign, I was honoured to be a part of it and thank you for the support.

'Darcey's Dream' is a North East based Charity supporting newly bereaved families and siblings. 'Darcey's Dream' Sibling Memory Boxes are available nationwide. They will provide boxes to any hospitals or families.

Their Sibling Loss leaflets are also available nationwide, as well as counselling support, face to face 24 hour support, sibling distraction therapy, days out/breaks away for families and aftercare packages for families, in the North East only.

However, they are always available for support to families out of the North East, over the phone, and their merchandise is available to purchase nationwide, they will never turn anyone away for support and are there to help in any way they can.

COME CLEAN!

Dear Sir,
In reply to Cllr Chandran's letter in last week's Newton News. Yes, I have been a member of the Labour and Liberal Parties. I left them of my own free will in order that I could represent the people of Aycliffe Village in the best way possible. That means that I vote according to the issues at the time and as a true independent and not at Cllr Chandran's command. I believe that Cllr Chandran left the Labour Party under very dark clouds. He was suspended and under investigation by the national Labour Party, with the high possibility of being

expelled. Rather than face the investigation, he jumped ship.

Is he a Tory in an Independent coat? He has not denied that he was canvassing for the Tories. If he was open, he would have canvassed in Newton Aycliffe, where he is known, but he canvassed in Chilton, hoping he would not be recognised. It is time Cllr Chandran told the truth.

Bill Blenkinsopp

GAGGING THE YOUNG

Dear Sir,
We have discovered that Aycliffe Radio tried to organise radio hustings but Sholl and Stead refused to take part!

Why? Scared we find out what they are like?

A councillor is elected to speak up. Poor show from them both.

Brandon Fleet, who wants to be the Voice of Youth, WAS PREPARED TO BE INTERVIEWED, but the show had to be cancelled, so he could not.

Two older men running scared and gagging the young. As always.

Disgusting.
Aycliffe Reply

NEWTON NEWS

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Hypocrisy, Contradiction and Falsehoods

Dear Sir,
We were told that after the General Election we would see a different kind of politics. Yet last week's Newton News on page 4 was full of hypocrisy, contradiction and falsehoods from Labours political opponents.

With reference to the article from Michael Stead where he stated that he has lived in Woodham for 17 years, he clearly doesn't know the area as can be seen by the distribution of election material in wards outside of the election boundary! He says he is a successful businessman and accountant but has stated, and I quote: "I will never back another council tax rise..."; is this sound business management and accountancy practice?

Our Town Council is recognised as efficient, effective and value for money, and residents, in a latest survey, confirmed their satisfaction with the service it provides. Also, Professional Auditors; Mazars LLP, gave GATC a clean bill of health and stated in their annual report to Council: "the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met".

Contrary to Michael Stead's leaflet claims of wasting money and poor services, in fact the Town Council's current Medium Term Financial Plan indicates the Council will be able to retain its activities and services for the next 5 years and also maintain our assets for the

next 10 years, demonstrated through improvements and a Capital spend of £269,000. Woodham North residents can judge for themselves whether a council tax rise of 7p a week at band A is value for money when based on the wide range of services and facilities that their Town Council provides year on year.

Mr Stead has also claimed that our council tax costs us more than almost everywhere else in England, again claims he has not substantiated. Great Aycliffe residents pay a lower council tax than a number of towns in the county, even though they are smaller and provide fewer facilities. This constant false reporting only demonstrates Mr Stead's inability to provide the real facts and anyone who has seen his posts on social media will know that he is mainly interested in cutting services to keep his own council tax low. As one of the most deprived areas in the country, County Durham has low property values and high social need, and Mr Stead is misleading you if he claims to be able to do anything about that as a Town Councillor. However, Aycliffe's Labour run Town Council provides high value services at a relatively low cost to the rate payer.

This by-election offers the residents of Woodham North the opportunity to elect as its Town Councillor Brandon Fleet, who offers fresh ideas with real potential to make a difference. The future belongs to the young people of today, so please give him an opportunity to deliver a new tomorrow.

Cllr Eddy Adam
Aycliffe West

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 4th March 2020 - 7.15pm
Policy & Resources Meeting

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

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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

Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday 21st March at the Youth Centre, Burn Lane
Adults £5, Children 50p

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

Royal Navy Recruit Heads off for First Boxing Tour

A Royal Navy recruit from Newton Aycliffe is on his way to Barbados to compete with the Royal Navy Boxing team. Trainee sailor James Le Poidevin joined the Royal Navy 10 weeks ago and has just completed his induction at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall. Two days after his passing-out-parade, attended by his family, James reported for duty with the boxing team. The 18-year-old started boxing at the age of 10 and has an impressive number of titles under his belt. He has taken part in a number of National championships and represented England. Such is his talent he was invited to train with the Royal Navy Boxing team last year before starting his initial training. He said: "It's really exciting to have been chosen to go to Barbados. It was a bit hard to process at first because I was buzzing for my passing-out-parade."

The former student of the University Technical College South Durham joined the Royal Navy on an accelerated apprentice scheme and is destined for a career beneath the waves on board submarines. The fast-track promotion scheme will give James a level 3 apprenticeship in engineering. He will also have the opportunity to complete a foundation degree in mechanical or electronic engineering. James said: "I've made some good mates at Raleigh and I'll take with me some great memories of my time here. I joined the Royal Navy to meet new people, experience different cultures and also to continue boxing. I aspire to be the Royal Navy boxing coach one day." Royal Navy initial training is designed to teach new



recruits the basic skills they will rely upon throughout their naval careers. It is underpinned by nine Core Maritime Skills that are the foundations of naval life and underpin operational effectiveness. Recruits are taught Naval discipline and customs. They learn about navigation and are given the chance to take the helm of their own medium sized inflatable boat during a waterborne orienteering exercise. Royal Navy personnel can also be called upon to play a vital role in land-based operations, so recruits undergo training in basic combat skills which includes survival in the field. Fitness is a key component of the training and is delivered using a disciplined method of military fitness which focuses on developing co-ordination and individual physical strength and endurance. As the course progresses the recruits take part in three extended exercises to test their skills and understanding of the principles they have been taught. Details of career opportunities within the Royal Navy are available online at www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers or by calling the Recruitment Line on 03456 00 53 02.

Hospital Trust Seeks Volunteers for New Role

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is looking for enthusiastic people to join a new team of 'Volunteer Response Porters'.

Associate director of nursing, Jason Cram, explains, "We have over 300 volunteers working in all kinds of roles, helping support the delivery of the best possible patient care and experience. They're an invaluable part of our team, providing better outcomes for patients and help keep our services running smoothly. "Our Volunteer Response Porters will be based at either Darlington Memorial Hospital or University Hospital of North Durham undertaking various responsibilities. We anticipate they'll quickly become essential in the day to day business of running our busy hospitals. Becoming a Volunteer Response Porter will be an excellent way to meet new people and gain experience of working within an NHS environment."

"There are only two criteria for applying – you need to be over 18 and able to provide two references. Of course, you'll also be of good character and have a caring nature." The Trust is holding two open sessions for anyone interested to come along and find out more, without obligation: Friday, 28 February 2020 – Hollies Restaurant, in the basement, Darlington Memorial Hospital, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Wednesday, 4 March 2020 – Meeting Room 7, Prospect House, Aykley Heads, DH1 5AN, 3.00pm – 5.00pm. For more details and to register your interest please email: jane.hesford@nhs.net or just call in to one of the above sessions to see us on the day.



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	Cazbo Jangles
2-4pm	Weekly Edition	Paul Baker
4-6pm	Northern & Classic Soul (R)	Kevin Sowerby
"The Saturday Night Experience" Sponsored by Bengal Lounge Indian Restaurant & Takeaway		
6-8pm	Evening Session	JimJams
8-9pm	Rock the House	Carl Booth
9-10pm	Retro Trance Mix	OZ-DJ
10-12am	Street 'n' Drum 'n' Bass	MC Supa

SUNDAY

9-10am	Church Service	Xcel Centre
Yesterdays Music Today Sponsored by MV Mobility		
10-11am	Yesterdays Music Today	Alan Brown
11-12pm	Random Reiki Master	Phil Hawkins
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
26th Feb - Friendship Force		
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	
28th Feb	Pauly Mac - Rare Vinyl (Sydney, Australia)	
10-12am	Alternative Aycliffe (R)	Gaz n Alby

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

Newton Broadcasting Limited (t/a Aycliffe Radio) is a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, registered on 19th February 2018 in England and Wales. Registration number 11211835. Registered office: Aycliffe Radio, c/o Blue Bridge Centre, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DS. Aycliffe Radio is CIC Registered (No. 11455404). Scheduled shows can be changed/cancelled at any time.



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

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Emma - Harley Quinn

Bad Boys for Life

The Lost Boys - The Grudge

The Gentlemen

Jumanji: The Next Level

Personal History of David Copperfield

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



New Azuma Train 801 224 on the test track at Hitachi factory.
By John Williamson. Send your local photos to paul@newtonnews.co.uk

LOOK AFTER YOUR WELLBEING THIS SPRING!

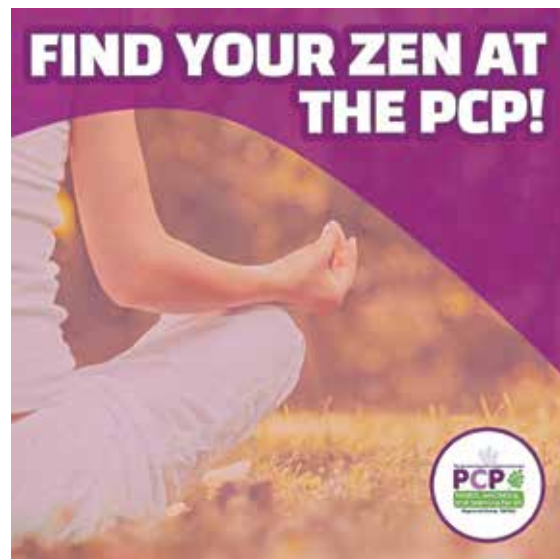
Health and wellbeing, Charity Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is offering a range of activities that can help you build your skills and improve your confidence and wellbeing as we move into Spring:

Growing Guru's

Tuesday's 5.15-6.15pm
Aimed at supporting children aged 5-11 years old this ongoing course, which you can dip in and out of at anytime, supports children to learn tools to enable them to self-soothe, relax and overcome stress and anxiety. Giving children lifelong skills that will support their wellbeing and help them maintain a positive outlook in times of difficulty throughout their life. Cost £4 per session
Introduction to Mindfulness
Starts Tuesday 3 March for 5 weeks, 6.00-8.45pm
Want to master the skills to support your wellbeing?

This course will take you on a journey through useful techniques, to help you to relax and manage your emotions and reactions in stressful situations. This

course is free, however you will need your National Insurance number and proof of residency.
Walk Leader Training
Monday 2 March



6.00-8.45pm
Love to walk? Enjoy meeting new people? Want to volunteer in a role that enables you to do both? Walk Durham is looking for Volunteer Walk Leaders. This free training course, will provide you with the necessary skills and support to make that happen. Contact Craig Daley on 03000 266 555 or craig.daley@durham.gov.uk

Understanding How to Manage Stress and Anxiety

Starts Tuesday 21 April for 5 weeks, 6.00-8.45pm
Understand the causes and symptoms of stress and learn how to deal with stressful events and support others who are suffering with stress. This course is free, however you will need your National Insurance number and proof of residency.

Easter Crafts

Starts Tuesday 17 March for 3 weeks, 1.30-4.30pm
Learn how to make fantastic personalised Easter gifts for your family and friends. This course is for adults and is free, however you will need your National Insurance number and proof of residency.
Cycling for Beginners
Monday's 10.00-12.00 noon
Peddle your way to fitness, while enjoying the changing seasons. Meet new people and build up your confidence. These sessions

are free and bikes and cycle helmets are provided.

Computers for the Terrified

Starts Thursday 27 February, 1.00-3.00pm for 5 weeks.

This easy to follow course will introduce you to using a computer, enjoy the advantages of getting online and using the internet. Free to anyone on a means tested benefit.

To find out more and book your place please contact us on 01325 321234, unless otherwise stated.

PETTING ZOO DAY

LITTLE ACORNS proudly present their 9th Annual Petting Zoo at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on **Saturday 18th April 2020 from 10.00am till 2.00pm.** Featuring: Animal Story, Farmyard Flyer and Crazy Creatures.

Entrance only £1.00 with balloon modelling by Professor Nincompoo, Face Painting by Harry Potty, Tombola, Syd the Squirrel, Spotty Dog and much, much more. Want to promote your club at this super event? Contact us for a free table on 01325 301725.

Licensing Scheme to Improve Standard of Rental Properties

Proposals to raise the standards of privately rented properties in County Durham are being put forward in a scheme to create better housing for residents.

Durham County Council is proposing to introduce a selective licensing scheme across the county which would ensure good standards of private rental properties.

The licensing scheme means landlords would need to apply to the council for a licence and meet the criteria for it to be issued.

An increase in well-managed and maintained housing through the scheme is hoped to result in fewer empty properties, improve the health and wellbeing of tenants and reduce anti-social behaviour, while providing support and training to landlords.

Cllr Kevin Shaw, Cabinet member for strategic housing and assets, said: "We want to ensure that all our residents across the county have the choice of safe and well-managed accommodation that maintains a high-quality private rented sector. "Through the selective licensing scheme, we will be able to work closely with landlords to provide

information, advice, guidance and tenancy support. We will also be able to work with tenants themselves to help improve the standards of housing and with our communities to reduce anti-social behaviour."

The scheme would apply to approximately 51,000 properties across the county in areas where there is low demand, a significant or persistent problem caused by anti-social behaviour, poor property conditions, or high levels of migration, deprivation or crime. Landlords would need to apply for a licence for each residential property they rent out in a designated area, and show they have adequate management arrangements in place. A licence will last for five years.

A consultation for the proposals will run for ten weeks from Monday 17 February 2020 to 5pm on Monday 27 April 2020. Community drop-ins and landlord events will be held during the consultation period while a survey is available online. For more information about the scheme, to see if your property will be affected and to have your say, visit www.durham.gov.uk/consultation

PPG Chair Change at Bewick Surgery



Dr. Chris Stephenson, representing the Partners and staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery, would like to formally thank Mrs Hilary Stoker for seven dedicated years as Chair of the Patient Participation Group after she stepped down from the position last month.

Hilary assumed the position of Chair in 2013 and has invested a significant amount of time in promoting the practice's services and conducting many charity events. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my seven year tenure as Chair and wish the very best for my successor in this important position. I will continue to enjoy being part of this Group but from a backseat from now on". Mrs Sue Cooke has assumed the position of Chairperson and will represent the voice of patients which continues to be a critical friend to the Surgery. Sue is also the Chair of the Great Aycliffe

and Middridge Partnership (GAMP); GAMP is an Area Action Partnership that works to identify and address local issues, and in turn improve the area in which people live, it's services and facilities. Dr. Stephenson said, "we would like to congratulate Sue on her new position and wish her continued success like her predecessor. We will continue to work closely with her and the rest of the PPG in order to provide the best service we can to our patients which is within our resources".

The practice, which provides care for the largest patient cohort in Newton Aycliffe, is conducting a patient survey opening on the 24th February 2020 and welcomes your views. The survey will be open for five and days will be available on its website and can also be completed in the main surgery at Bewick and the branch surgery at Heighington.

OFFICE UNITS TO LET



Fully refurbished offices now available to let in an eco-friendly building. Located at the entrance to Aycliffe Business Park on St. Cuthberts Way (old Newton Press building), easy access to A1M.

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- Snowdrops available to purchase
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- Book of Remembrance in quiet corner of Visitor Centre

Hardwick Park, Sedgfield

SUN 23 FEB 2020 12-3pm

Entry is FREE, however donations will be gratefully received

Child Bereavement UK
REBUILDING LIVES TOGETHER

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childbereavementuk.org

3M Staff Help School Children Plant a Wildflower Meadow

Aycliffe Village Primary School has received around 75 wildflower plants to create its very own wildflower meadow, from science-based technology company 3M, working in partnership with the charity Earth Restoration Service. Staff from the 3M site in Aycliffe have been helping the pupils and staff to plant the flowers in the school grounds.

Called the Flutter Flower project, the school will re-introduce wild flower species which in turn will support the return of native species of insects to the area. The donation includes plants such as Cheddar Pink, Wild Basil, Lady's Bedstraw, Wild Clary and Red Valerian. The meadow will provide valuable food sources and coverage for birds, butterflies and other insects.

The school has also received a signed Certificate of Recognition from the charity's patron, Joanna Lumley, as well



as educational resources about reflowering and reforestation.

Joanne Vest, Science Co-ordinator at Aycliffe Village Primary School said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn practical skills, from using tools to teamwork, as well as about the natural world. We're very excited to be part of something that will make a genuine difference to the local ecosystem

and wildlife. This direct and positive impact on the planet will be something our children can be very proud of; they will remember their role in it for many years to come."

Said Romy Kenyon, sustainability projects manager from 3M: "Sustainability and environmental conservation are principles close to 3M's heart and are ones that are increasingly important to young people. Ninety seven per cent of wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s and the flying insect population has reduced by 75 per cent in the last 25 years. We hope that this collaboration between Earth Restoration Service, 3M and Aycliffe Village Primary School will help to redress this and enhance the pupils' environmental understanding."

Earth Restoration Service connects sponsors, who provide trees and plants, with landowners, who volunteer spaces such as schools and disused private land. Its programmes inspire volunteers, educate young people and improve the local ecosystem through reflowering and reforestation.

Since the 1930s, more than half the UK's ancient woodland has been destroyed and 60 per cent of the country's animal and plant species have declined in the past 50 years. The charity's aim is to plant 50,000 trees and enough flowers to attract 20 million insects across 1,000 sites by World Earth on the 22 April this year. Aycliffe Village Primary School and 3M will be helping it to achieve this. 3M staff help local Aycliffe school children plant a wildflower meadow.

Roman Showers Attend KBB 2020

Europe's leading shower designer and manufacturer, Roman, has revealed its excitement ahead of the UK's main bathroom event, KBB, which will take place from 1st to 4th March 2020 at the NEC Birmingham.

Roman will be located on Stand E70 which will be packed full of new ideas and British manufactured products, demonstrating the company's full range of capabilities and vast experience within the UK market.

At this year's KBB event, among a range of luxurious showering solutions, Roman will officially be launching the new Liberty Fluted Glass Wetroom Panels, Innov8 Sliders, Innov8 Curved Quadrants and Innov8 Hinged Doors.

Roman are launching fluted glass options on wetroom panels in the

Liberty range. Graham Speed, Commercial Director at Roman: "We have been supplying this glass for some time within the hotel and hospitality market but demand from designers has now allowed us to push it into the retail market."

Roman's Innov8 Sliders and Curved Quadrants have extremely clever running systems and fast fix installation design – the obvious visual aspect is their availability in a matt black finish as well as silver chrome – this shows how mainstream matt black is now becoming in the market. The range features 8mm thick glass on the sliding doors and the large one door curved quadrants.

Other launches on the stand include Black Grid Hinged Doors with in-line panels which slot into the stunning Liberty range – with availability in four



colours; matt black, silver chrome, brushed nickel and polished nickel.

David Osborne, Managing Director at Roman: "We have a Stand packed with nothing but new ideas and British manufactured products. We can't wait for KBB to start - and we trust that, as usual, it energises our industry for the year ahead."

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

Situations VACANT

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Duties to include assisting with personal living, cooking, washing and general housework and cooking evening meals for two and general well being. Hobbies include accompanying her to the local craft centre (Pioneering Care Centre) and shopping. She also enjoys shows at the Darlington Hippodrome (all expenses will be paid for).

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SPECIALIST SPRING PROGRAMME AT GREENFIELD ARTS



The programme at Greenfield Arts is now well underway with activities, projects and events attracting over 4000 visitors and participants.

Specialist arts offers this season include acrylics and oils, book-making, print-making and an illustration workshop. In our season of 'connections' we are offering the opportunity to connect to your creativity, learn new skills with specialist artists and to be creative in a lovely environment.

Many of our participants are busy preparing to exhibit their artwork in our Open Art exhibition. 'Connecting Communities' will feature over fifty

artists many of whom will be exhibiting for the first time. The exhibition runs from Thursday 27 February – Wednesday 29 April 2020 with a preview evening on Wednesday 26 February 2020 from 18:00 onwards. Greenfield Arts has bespoke studio spaces that have state-of-the-art facilities and is available for use, supporting artists, freelancers, creative practitioners and creative groups throughout the region. If you would like to know more about the facilities and opportunities that are available please visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk for further details or speak directly to Creative Director at Greenfield Arts, Katy Milne.

Thank you! From Friends of St. Clare's

The picture shows Noel Bennett the founder of Friends of St. Clare's accepting a cheque from members of the Aycliffe Masonic Lodge on 19th February 2020. The cheque for £250 goes towards Friends of St. Clare's Sponsorship Fund. Noel said, "I really appreciate the kindness and generosity of the chairman, committee and members of the Aycliffe Masonic Lodge", and added, "This is a good start in our efforts to raise between £3,000 and £5,000 for our two year membership recruitment campaign."

We are looking for individuals and companies who would like to take part in this project by sponsoring Friends of St. Clare's.

In return for your sponsorship you will be able to advertise and run a public relations campaign by appearing on our products and during events. For example your name and/or logo could appear on our printing, website, advertising, film making, banners, tickets, events, stationery, cards, letterheads, compliment slips, raffle tickets, emails, press releases and other campaign expenses. You can choose to become a shared, main or sole sponsor. Email: noelbennett@uwclub.net for further information. Friends of St. Clare's (Church in Newton Aycliffe), within the next few months, is to begin a campaign. We are an independent organisation which will seek charitable status and raise funds

solely to support St. Clare's Church. No one doing work within Friends of St. Clare's will be paid for the work they do.

There are examples of churches across the country often becoming unusable. The buildings are suffering from mould, rot, falling masonry etc. So in desperation people get together to form a Friends Group. "Let's not wait for that day" said Noel.

Not only is the work of the Church of such great importance but there is also the protection of the treasures housed within the building. For example the pews and other pieces of furniture were made by the famous Mouse Man company. There are also several very beautiful stained glass windows.

As St. Clare herself showed, our most valued possessions are the people. By making 'Friends of St. Clare's' successful we will be protecting all the 'people work' that goes on into the future.

To discuss sponsoring Friends of St. Clare's please contact me at noelbennett@uwclub.net. If, in the unlikely event, you are not online, please write to Noel F. Bennett, Friends of St. Clare's, c/o St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, Newton Aycliffe. DL5 5NT.



ACT OF KINDNESS BY YOUNGSTERS



Dear Sir,
On Monday afternoon, 17th February, at around 1.30pm, my son, Mark Chapman and I walked down to Argos in Newton Aycliffe.

On leaving the shop we walked onto Greenwell Road, around the back of Argos, and just on the path, up from the entrance to the town park, my son witnessed an elderly lady lose her footing on the pavement.

We rushed over to see if she needed assistance, a gentleman, who was parked in his van, also came forward. I dialled 999 for an ambulance.

A few moments later a group of youngsters came along and offered to help, and without any prompting, they all took off their coats and proceeded to cover the lady with them to keep her warm.

The lady in question was called Violet, she is an 84

or 85 year old lady, who had been in the Youth Centre for her lunch. Another lady came over with blankets from Barnardo's, she also managed to get hold of Violet's son.

Tesco staff also came to assist and brought a hot water bottle, hand warmers and a duvet cover.

The children who arrived first deserve some recognition for what they did, especially with all the bad press about the town's youngsters in other publications.

It was bitterly cold and they themselves did this act of kindness. We all waited for around 45 minutes for the ambulance to arrive and I was knelt on the floor beside Violet the whole time.

The names of the children are as follows: Katie Brown, Logan Roe, Mark Chapman, Jake Wild, Ciaran Brayley and Callum Anderson.

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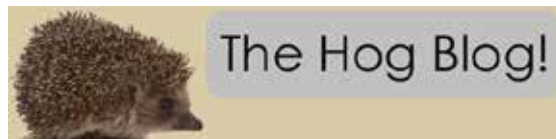
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www.newtonpress.net



We have had some illness this week, three little ones have had upset tummies, the right medication at the correct dose should hopefully see some improvement by this weekend. They have coccidiosis which is bacterial, sometimes the stress of captivity causes these ailments. One thing I have to say is that despite the medicine tasting awful, this little lady called Tiny wanted to show off her smile for you all, a proper sweetie I am sure you will agree.

I have been in contact with The British Hedgehog Preservation Society, they have said that the continuous rain we have had is washing a lot of hedgehogs out of their homes and food is also hard to find, they still need people to ring them for help and advice on 01584 890801.

As I mentioned last week we will be fundraising at two Easter Fairs the first is at The Big Club on Saturday 14th March and on Saturday 28th March at Neville Parade Methodist Church, please come and see us.

Maxine, Viv and Joan
Aycliffe Rescue Centre

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



As has been the trend for the last few weeks, last weeks racing was again affected by the weather with storm Dennis causing two of the cross country races to be cancelled. These were the Richmond fixture in the NYSD league and the Thornley Hall fixture in the Harrier League. This fixture had already been cancelled the week prior due to storm Ciara.

It didn't stop the Signal Relays from going ahead however, in Hetton le Hole Country Park. These were legs of 2.2 miles per person with ladies running in teams of 4 and men running in teams of 6. Despite the wind and rain we managed to get three ladies teams out (albeit one was incomplete) and two mens teams.

The ladies results were:-
a) Helen Boyd 22.24, Hannah Richardson 23.05, Marie Rudd 25.45 and Jan McLuckie 23.37.

b) Paula Lambert 22.23, Susan Clark 23.01, Sandra Rudd 25.45 and Eve Doe 24.31.

c) Tracey Surtees 14.09, Julie Nisbet 17.10 and Katie Dodds 15.18.

The mens race results were:-
a) John Surtees 11.53, Paul Dalton 12.50, Floyd Jones 13.23, Richard Campbell 13.44, Andy Talbot 13.49 and Corey Horn 13.48.

b) Matt Heron 15.45, Stuart Joyce 14.56, Simon Matthew Turner 15.43, Shaun Dodds 16.34, Peter Smith 15.31 and Alan Wilks 16.53.

ARC still had good attendances at the parkruns earlier that day also with some completing the parkrun before the relays. Given the weather it was no surprise that we didn't have any PBs this week but mention must be made of Sandra Collins who took part in and completed her 250th parkrun at Shildon.

It was also a good day for racing on Sunday despite the continued bad weather. Close to home we had four members take part in the Absent Friends trail race. This takes place at Cowpen Bewley Park. Usually it is just over 5 miles long, but because of conditions underfoot and flooding the route was shortened this year to just under 4.5 miles. First home for ARC was Julie Nisbet in 40.33 (1st female O35 overall) followed by David Stothard in 42.27, Kevin Greenall 43.37 and Pat Edwards in 49.18.

Also in Durham, Richard



Tonge took place in the Saturn Running - To Infinity and Beyond event. This is a timed event in which participants complete as few or as many 3.28 laps as they can in 7 hours. Richard completed two full laps covering 6.67 miles in 1 hour 14 minutes.

Slightly further away down in West Yorkshire, one member Trish completed the Liversedge half Marathon. This was described as a tough, hilly course through some extremely rural areas and definitely was not for the 'faint hearted'. She also had to contend with hailstones and crosswinds which took away from the enjoyment. Despite this Trish completed this race in 2.02.04.

A little further away, four members were also taking part in another half marathon. This was on the coast at Blackpool in the Great North West Half. This is an out and back course along the front of Blackpool and so again the runners taking part had to contend with very blustery winds. First home for ARC was John Richardson in 2.09.16, followed by Bev Phillippo in 2.14.55, Ian Baronowski 2.26.27 and Helen Boyd in 2.47.24.



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



Compiled by
County Councillor John Clare

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

COUNCIL

Last week's Durham County Council Cabinet meeting, Wednesday 12 February, was hugely important. The meeting heard reports on the Council's activities on business investment sites and homelessness; agreed next year's school admission arrangements; and received some very depressing news regarding the latest indices of deprivation.

However it also:

- agreed next year's budget (where an easing of government austerity cuts to the revenue budget has allowed the council to allocate extra revenue to front-line services, and also to release capital spending of £199 million).

• accepted the Climate Emergency Response Action Plan of 111 costed projects to address the emissions both of the Council and the County, along with preparations to set up partnership groups and organise measures to lobby the government for help.

Last week also:

- DCC's digital projects team won a Modern Service Delivery Award;
- The Council signed the GMB's Work to Stop Domestic Abuse charter, a campaign for greater support for employees experiencing domestic abuse;
- Please take part in the consultation on Selective Licensing, DCC's proposal to raise the standards of privately rented properties in County Durham.

Finally, I have received a number of messages fearing that this weekend's flooding may have invalidated the Council's proposed new HQ; this is not the case, and I have posted the DCC statement on this on my blog.

COMMUNITY

Climate issues were also in the news last week when the Seaham Garden Village development became the first

scheme to harness mine water energy – a collaboration between the Coal Authority, Tolent Construction, and DCC.

Other matters last week proved more controversial.

• I spoke at the Durham YouthStrike4Climate on Friday 14 February where I met opposition from activists who do not think that DCC is doing enough (although they had not read the Climate Emergency Response Action Plan, which I hope will change their minds somewhat).

• Anti-Social Behaviour is a very raw issue at the moment, and my report on last week's Aycliffe ASB meeting, Thursday 13 February, provoked a lively debate on facebook.

• Rats – perhaps driven from the countryside by the weather – are also causing local concern, and I have published some advice on my blog.

Finally, a message for businesses: Do you know that Business Durham offers free, informal business advice and support drop-ins at Jackson's Coffeehouse, Xcel Centre, every Monday from 1:30-4pm?

As always, there is more about all these issues on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB152



REME Association, South West Durham Branch monthly meeting will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 26th February 2020 in the Scout Centre, Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe.

All serving and ex-serving members of REME welcome. "Arte et Marte".



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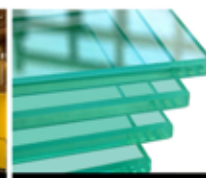
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with more information, from one of our waiting areas or wards.

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T.V. CHEFS BRING MEDITERRANEAN FLAVOURS TO POPULAR FOOD FESTIVAL

Celebrity chef Joe Hurd and reigning MasterChef champion Irini Tzortzoglou will bring the flavours of the Mediterranean to County Durham this spring.

As excitement builds for Bishop Auckland Food Festival's return on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 April, organiser Durham County Council has added to its line-up of famous faces appearing at the popular event.

As a proud Yorkshireman with Italian heritage, Joe's interests in cookery have been inspired by these two influences from day one. A regular on BBC One's Saturday Kitchen, ITV's Munch Box and at festivals and events across the UK, he is passionate about sharing his knowledge of traditional Italian recipes, ingredients and cooking techniques. Joe will be appearing on stage in Bishop Auckland



Food Festival's free cookery marquee on the Saturday and Sunday.

"I'm really excited to be appearing at Bishop Auckland Food Festival for the first time this year," said Joe.

"I'll be cooking up some of my favourite Italian dishes, but I'll be seeking out some of the wonderful local produce too. I can't wait." From the flavours of Italy, to the tastes of Greece - MasterChef 2019 winner Irini was born in Crete but now lives in Cumbria. Irini served up a variety of traditional Greek dishes with her own unique twist during the popular TV cookery contest, impressing the judges and fans of the show who tuned in in their millions.

Since winning the competition, Irini has been writing her first cookery book, *Under the Olive Tree: Recipes from My Greek Kitchen*, which is due to be published this summer. She will be demonstrating some of her favourite dishes in the cookery marquee on the Saturday, influenced by her latest accolade, that of a certified Olive Oil Sommelier.

Irini said: "The excitement of the MasterChef championship has continued all through 2019 and into 2020, and my passion and interest in food, having been ignited by my success in the competition, continues to grow."

"I very much enjoyed creating more than 80 recipes for my book and more recently learning about the benefits and culinary applications of olive oil over a week-long course in London."

"I can't wait to apply my newly found knowledge and show how simple food can be made delicious, nutritious as well as exciting with a few simple MasterChef touches. I'm grateful for being asked to be part of this amazingly successful food festival."

"I'm really looking forward to sharing some of my food with the people of County Durham, meeting the other talented chefs and enjoying what Bishop Auckland Food Festival has to offer."

While in Bishop Auckland, Irini will be reunited with one of the MasterChef judges, John Torode, who is headlining the food festival on the Saturday. Great British Bake Off 2016 finalist Jane Beedle will also be delivering workshops at the event, and more celebrity chefs will be announced in coming weeks.

The festival will also see more than 150 traders from across the North East serve up the finest produce the region has to offer, along with tasty street food, drinks, cakes and desserts. The event attracted a record-breaking 29,000 people to Bishop Auckland's historic Market Place last year, boosting the profits of traders and local businesses alike. It is hoped this year's festival will bring even more economic benefits to the town, while raising County Durham's profile as a culinary destination.

To find out more about the festival and to book workshop tickets, visit www.bishopaucklandfoodfestival.co.uk. To stay up to date with the latest festival news follow @bishfoodfest on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

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Volunteers Celebrate The Beauty of Our Oceans

Greenpeace Durham Group invited local MPs and members of the public to a photo exhibition recently to show the threats our oceans are facing. Local group co-ordinator, Pauline Hall from Durham, said: "We've put on this exhibition ahead of the final UN negotiations in March on a Global Ocean Treaty to show the risks that iconic wildlife, such as penguins, face from overfishing, melting ice and plastic pollution. It's vital that we protect at least 30% of our oceans by 2030."

Joining Greenpeace Durham to provide

entertainment was local singing and climate action group, Durham Climate Choir, who has previously performed with Greenpeace Durham at the Global Climate Strike held in Durham's marketplace last September.

Also supporting the event was Greenpeace 'Green Speaker' Ruth Drake, from Greenpeace Newcastle, who highlighted the importance of taking action to protect oceans from further pollution.

Ruth said: "The world's oceans are the biggest carbon sink on earth and therefore they are the best ally we have in the fight against climate change - but currently less than 5% of the world's oceans are protected. That's why it's vital that we campaign for a strong Global Ocean Treaty to protect our oceans."

The event featured photos of iconic wildlife such as walruses, whales, giant jellyfish and penguins. The photos were taken from aboard the Greenpeace ship the Esperanza, which is travelling from Pole to Pole and is currently in the Antarctic. Attendees also had the opportunity to experience a virtual reality 3D simulation of the Antarctic ocean narrated by Javier Bardem. Pauline continued: "As a county close to the beautiful North East coast, Durham Greenpeace knows how important our oceans are for food, tourism and to protect us from the climate emergency."

"It's a shame that our local MPs couldn't make it, but we hope that they can support the campaign by signing Greenpeace's Protect the Oceans Declaration."

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New Friends New Places

We are going on a Mystery Trip to an indoor/outdoor destination. There will be a stop for a coffee and then lunch, on Sunday 1st March 2020, cost £5 per person, excluding coffee and lunch.

Leaving Wilkos, Town Centre at 10.15am; Stephenson Way bus stop 10.30am. Ring 308094 or 07967 901477 to book and further questions.

Dog Owners Beware of Diseases

Dear Sir,
 Shocking . . . I found 12 droppings within 20 yards of roadside grass. I found these when exiting The Spinney on Woodham Way. Responsible dog owners please report those irresponsible persons with medium to large dogs to your Councillor, before your children or dogs are infected. This incident was reported to Cllr John D. Clare who was quick to get the County Council clean up team out and cleared away the mess. If you notice a dog walker not cleaning up their dog's mess, please report them to your Councillor. Name & address supplied

Join us for a Cuppa & Chat

Men Talking Together at the Big Shed, Unit 14a I.E.S. Centre, (behind Newton Press). Free car parking available. Come and have a chat and a cup of tea or coffee. Every Monday from 11.00am until 1.00pm. On Monday 2nd March, 11.00am, we are going to Seaton Carew for Fish & Chips, the transport is free. Ring 308094 or 07967 901477.

New Pathways Together hold a group meeting every Wednesday from 10.30am until 12.30pm at THE ARK (formerly Western Area Community Centre, Silverdale House). If you are lonely, worried, have Mental Health issues or recovering from an illness come and have a cup of tea and talk. We can point you in the right direction for help. If you have someone you are caring for who has dementia, bring them for a cup of tea. When the weather is a little better we will be taking trips, using the mini bus. This group was activated in 2016, but closed last year for the refurbishment of the community house and we will welcome all old members. Ring for more details 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

Obstructing Footpaths and Bad Parking

Dear Sir,
 Further to your article from last week at Simpasture: I have enclosed three photos of Travellers Green area, where they have been demolishing the old bungalows and building more. I am a wheelchair user, so, how am I supposed to get past these vehicles safely? Both vehicles are parked 100% on the footpath and a van across a disabled access ramp. This is just the start of the development. I have a friend who is

registered blind with a guide dog who visits me, how can he get safely past these vehicles? The residents who live in that area are also parking vehicles on the grass, instead of on the road and are chewing up the grass, it is in a right state here now. This is beyond a joke and it is the same workers that are working up at Simpasture shops, which was in the Newton News last week. Many Thanks
 Name & address supplied



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4				6	9	
	7	6	5		3	
	6	4	7			5 9
3				2		8
2	9			4	1	7
		2		9	4	8
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Nile Rodgers, Chic and Travis to Headline Hardwick Festival 2020

The undisputed king of disco, soul and funk and a leading Scottish band are topping a star-studded line-up heading to a County Durham music festival this summer.

Hardwick Festival will return to Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield this summer, with multi-platinum artistes Nile Rodgers and CHIC headlining the event on Saturday 22 August and Travis taking the top spot the following day.

And, to consolidate its position as the go-to event of the summer, organisers have also booked multi award-winning singer-songwriter Rag'n'Bone Man who will take to the stage on Sunday 23 August.

Nile Rodgers and CHIC rose to fame in the late 1970s with a string of hugely successful disco songs, including Le Freak, Good Times and I Want Your Love, with Nile Rodgers going on to become a three-time Grammy award winner and collaborating on albums with stars such as Sister Sledge, David Bowie, Madonna, Diana Ross and Daft Punk.

Hardwick Festival is also delighted to welcome Sunday night headliners and two time 'best band' BRIT Award winners, Travis.

The Scottish indie-rock band have a rich touring history, headline slots at some of the world's biggest festivals including Glastonbury, Roskilde, Benicassim, T in the Park, as well as epic performances at Coachella, Summer Sonic Japan, Rock am Ring and Rock im Park Germany and countless sold out tours around the world.



Their most recent UK tour, which included a sold-out show at Newcastle City Hall, saw Travis bring their classic, nine times Platinum, album 'The Man Who' to the stage.

One of the successful British albums of the last 20 years, produced by Nigel Godrich (known for his work with Radiohead), 'The Man Who' spent an astonishing 11 weeks at Number One in the UK charts & won the BRIT Award for Best Album. Their

show will include songs from all eight of their studio albums.

Also performing on Saturday is guitarist Johnny Marr – who accompanied Billie Eilish for the first performance of her Bond theme No Time to Die at the Brit Awards on 18 February – and chart-topping singer-songwriter Rebecca Ferguson.

Joining the line-up on Sunday, along with Travis and Rag'n'Bone Man, is celebrated English band The Charlatans, who sprung to fame in the 1980s and have continued to wow audiences ever since.

Organisers have also announced the return of the dance arena at the Coachhouse Courtyard, where world-famous club brand Glitterbox will host top DJs on Saturday, followed by the hugely popular Sedgfield event, To The Manor Born on Sunday.

Other bands lined up to appear over the weekend include Elvana – who describe themselves as Elvis fronted Nirvana, The K's, Dennis and indie rock band The Volunteers, along with Twisted Wheel, The Lancashire Hotpots and Nick Pride and the Pimptones.

The event will also see the return of the popular funk and soul DJ line-up, with names to be announced in the near future.

Tickets for this year's Hardwick Festival are currently on sale at £55 for one day or £99 for both days plus booking fees. Concession tickets are available for children and 13-17-year-olds.

Camping and glamping options are available for those who want to immerse themselves in the festival experience.

For more information or to book tickets, visit www.hardwicklive.co.uk

Milkshake Returns to Hippodrome



Milkshake Monkey can't wait to put on a spectacular new musical for you all! But when stage fright hits, his favourite MILKSHAKE friends come to help, creating the most dazzling show you have ever seen!

Be part of this fantastic production as you learn the amazing songs and dances with your favourite Milkshake friends, and watch as the music, the lights, the costumes and stage come together. With great Milkshake friends, anything is possible. Starring Fireman Sam, Noddy, Shimmer & Shine, Digby Dragon, Wissper, Nella the Princess Knight and the Floogals, alongside two Milkshake Presenters, this brand-new show has plenty of laughter, audience interaction and great fun to get everyone up on their feet!

It's a family show not to be missed!

Darlington Hippodrome

Saturday 8 August 1pm & 4pm

<https://www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk/whats-on/milkshake-live/>

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HALLE MAGIC AT HIPPODROME



A trio of Hallé orchestral players provide access to live music of the highest standard in this magical music session for parents and toddlers at Darlington Hippodrome on Friday 28 February.

Hallé Magic involves a string trio of Hallé musicians and a leader in the delivery of a themed programme of activities for young children. The session centres around the Hallé Magic Box, a box of toys and props to stimulate various activities: songs & rhymes, simple movements and musical games. There is also the opportunity for the children to respond to the music in any way they wish – relaxing, listening or joining in.

The emphasis is on providing a simple structure to the session creating an informal,

relaxed and impromptu atmosphere allowing parents and toddlers time to enjoy interacting and relaxing to live music.

Hallé Magic comes to

In Memoriam

JUNE IVESON

February 19th 2016

Gone are the days we used to share, But in my heart you are always there, Never more than a thought away, Loved and remembered every day. I miss your smile, your gentle face, Nothing will ever take your place. Your Loving Husband Bill

No one knows how much we miss you, No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you. Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, Sweetly, tender, fond and true, There is not a day Dear Mam, That we do not think of you. Lynn, Ken and family

It only takes a little space, To write how much we love and miss you, But it will take the rest of our lives, To forget the day we lost you. Paul, Elaine and family

Deep in our hearts, You will always stay, Loved, missed and remembered every day. Malcolm, Sarah and family

Peter Redden (1971 - 2013)

Sweet are the memories silently kept of the one we loved dearly and will never forget. Love you loads, All the family

John Arran Hughes 1971 - 1992

You are the sun, You are the moon, The brightest star up in the sky. You are the wind You are the rain, The softest snowflake that floats by. You are with us from our waking, till we fall asleep to dream. But most of all, my darling, you are our Son, our Brother, my Dad. Our love will last forever, till we meet again sweetheart. Mam, Dad, Garry, Paul, Vicky and Maxine xxxxxx

Thank You

Chris & Gillian Coglan

Thank you both for a wonderful week away, and your wonderful company. Mam and Eddie xxxxx

Acknowledgement

Luke Raine

The family of the late Luke Raine would like to thank everyone who attended the recent funeral held at St. Clare's Church on Friday 31st January. The donations made at the church and the Big Club were greatly appreciated. A total of £550 has been passed on to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Anniversary Remembrance

Linda Griffiths (25th February 1995)

This special day in my life, when I asked you to be my wife. Oh how you looked on that day, no one can ever take away. No one sees my broken heart, that lies beneath my smile. Many times I've needed you and many times I've cried. And although I cannot see you, you are always by my side. So sadly missed, Your loving Husband, Ray xxxxxxxx

Darlington Hippodrome on Friday 28 February. For more information

or to book call 01325 405405 or visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk

Obituary

Jason Thompson (Jay)

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away suddenly on Saturday 8th February, aged 49 years.

A much loved Partner of Cath; a dearly loved Son of Bas and Eileen; a dear Brother of Karen and Uncle to Luke and Jayden. Family and friends please meet for Funeral Service at St. Clare's Church on Friday 28th February at 10.45am followed by Committal at Wear Valley Crematorium.

Family flowers only by request.

Laura Thornton (nee Stephenson)

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on Monday 10th February, aged 93 years.

Dearly beloved Wife of the late Arthur; a much loved Sister to Florence; also a dear Aunt to Mandy, Hedda and Bridget.

Family and friends please meet for Funeral Service at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 27th February at 12.30pm.

Margaret Rose Hill (nee Ross)

Of Newton Aycliffe, peacefully at home on Sunday 9th February, aged 82 years.

Dearly beloved Wife of the late Malcolm Warner Hill; a much loved Mum, Nana, Great Nana and Sister.

Family and friends please meet for Funeral Service at Wear Valley Crematorium (Coundon) on Wednesday 26th February at 11.30am. Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses.

Marjorie Biglands

Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully on Monday 10th February, aged 96 years.

Beloved Wife of the late Austin; dearly loved Mum of David and Mother-in-Law of Jackie; cherished Granny of Emma and Alex; proud Great Granny of Toby, Lily and Cristina. Would family and friends please meet for a Service at Darlington Crematorium on Thursday 27th February at 1.15 pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to The British Heart Foundation.

Hazel Hatser Aycliffe Village

24th January, passed away peacefully in Aycliffe Care Home. Hazel, aged 94 years.

Dearly loved Wife of the late Tommy; loving and adored Mam to Wendy, Joy-Marie and Mammy to Dawn; dear Mother-in-Law to the late Tony and Georgie; dear Gran to Anthony and his Wife Vicky and Granny Hazel to Caitie and William.

A truly remarkable lady who will be missed.

Funeral on Monday 24th February. Would friends kindly meet for Service and Committal in St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations in aid of The Village Hall would be much appreciated and a donation box will be available at The County in the village after the Service, to where everyone is kindly invited for refreshments and memories of Hazel can be shared.

Tommy Grindlay

10th February, peacefully at home in York. Tommy aged 76 years (formerly of Newton Aycliffe).

Dear Dad to Darren, Martin and Stuart. Sadly missed by all his family and many friends.

Funeral on Thursday 27th February. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Andrew's Church, Aycliffe Village at 10.30am followed by private cremation.

Floral tributes if desired will be accepted by Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600.

Patricia Ann Golightly

Taken from us peacefully on Friday 7th February 2020.

You were so much more than a devoted Wife to Brian; a loving Mother to Michael and Andrew; a forever friend to your Granddaughters and Great Grandson and a cherished Sister always.

You were the glue that bound us together. You had a kindly word for each and died beloved by all. Shall be laid to rest Monday 24th February 2020 at Coundon Crematorium at 1.30 pm. After the Service, family and friends are welcome for refreshments at The Park Head Hotel, Coundon.

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Young Rising Kart Driver wins at Warden Law

Sebastian started karting nine months ago at Warden Law. He first started in hire karts, then completed a few of the hire kart races.

We bought him his own kart in July 2019 and progressed into the owner driver race's. Sebastian spends every Wednesday after school and Sunday at Warden Law Kart Club practicing to become a better driver.

He raced in the Winter Championship and came 4th overall out of 27 drivers, an amazing achievement, as well as coming first in one of the heats.

Last weekend is the first Championship Race at his local club, Warden Law, which is back after a gap of seven years. He has been trained by Driver/Coaches,

Rhys and Kai Hunter, who have helped to develop his driving and racing skills.

Sebastian was recently filmed by the BBC and featured on our local news on Wednesday 12th February alongside his driver buddy, Charlie, and Driver/Coach, Rhys Hunter. Sebastian is very excited to have his first complete championship this year and is very focused on achieving all he can.

His idol is Sebastian Vettel, even having his helmet like Sebastian Vettel!

Seb competed at the first round in the championship last weekend at Warden Law - what an amazing day. He came first in the final.

We are so incredibly proud of our star. One of the youngest drivers on track.



N.A.F.C. REPORT

Happy Birthday Charlie



Newton Aycliffe FC's oldest supporter, Charlie Bussey, celebrated his 90th birthday this week with a surprise presentation from the Club. Originally from Middlestone Moor Charlie has now been a Newtonian for over 60 years & during that time has become a dedicated follower of the town's football team. He still attends most games, home and away.

Last Saturday Charlie's family organised a surprise for him with a visit to Newton Aycliffe Sports Club to meet the players and committee. Club Captain Aaron Brown (pictured with Charlie) presented him with an engraved plaque marking the occasion, with the players applauding the

nonegenarian.

Charlie, wearing his Aycliffe coat, and new scarf, was delighted with the reception and reflected on many years of watching his favourite team. He was accompanied by his sons Michael and David, along with grandson Matthew.

The Club had planned to make Charlie's presentation on the pitch at the Beaumont Landscapes Stadium. However, the game against Seaham Red Star fell victim to Storm Dennis. It wasn't alone. The only 3 games played in the Ebac Northern League last Saturday were on artificial pitches. The rest fell victim to waterlogged (or in the case of Tow Law, snow covered) pitches.

The Seaham game has been rearranged for Tuesday 24th March with a 7:45pm kick off. Aycliffe now hit the road for games at Whitley Bay, Newcastle Benfield and West Auckland. The next home game is on Tuesday 3rd March (KO 7.45pm) when second placed Hebburn Town will be the visitors. Admission is £6 adults, £4 concessions with accompanied under 12s free.

Film Show

"MARY POPPINS RETURNS"

The "Feel Good Film Show" at St. Clare's Church on Tuesday 25th February features Disney's fantasy adventure "Mary Poppins Returns", starring Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Julie Walters, Colin Firth and Ben Whishaw.

The magical nanny returns to help the Banks children, now grown up, out of big trouble.

Everyone is welcome.

Tea and coffee are served at 1.00pm, included in the £2.00 admission, the film starts at 1.15pm and a variety of chairs are provided for your comfort, and tables so that you can bring a spot of lunch to eat while you enjoy a great film in friendly company.

For further details ring Ric Hargreaves 01325 316755.

Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club County Championships Report

The County-level swimming championships took place over the first and third weekends of February at the impressive purpose-built Sunderland Aquatic Centre 50 metre pool. County level for Sedgefield 75 swimming club takes in all the swimming clubs of Northumberland and County Durham plus the northern reaches of North Yorkshire and the old county of Cleveland. Known locally as the "N&D's" 29 clubs in all sent over 600 different swimmers who had met demanding qualifying times in previous competitions to compete for the various age-grouped titles. Collectively, over 4000 swims were completed with most events decided by a final following qualification via heats.

Sedgefield 75 had nine qualifying swimmers, their highest number since 2016 which included three debutants in the competition; Filip Wilczynski, Tom Curran and Charlie McEwan. Commemorative hoodies, swim caps and water bottles were bought by most swimmers to celebrate their achievement in earning their participation.

Matthew Wimbury, swimming his last race for Sedgefield, signed off with a good PB in the 50m breaststroke event.

In the 11 years age group, Tom Curran swam 100 and 200m freestyle taking an impressive two seconds off each PB. Filip Wilczynski racked up eight new PBs as he entered eleven events across all strokes and qualified for six finals in; backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly - 50m and 100m distances. He placed 5th twice and 6th four times in a very successful first N&D. James Hodgson swam 50, 100 and 200m freestyle and Katelyn Craig 200m butterfly. Matty Wilczynski swam all butterfly distances plus 50m backstroke, qualifying for the 200m butterfly final.

Charlie McEwan swam 50m backstroke and freestyle setting an impressive new PB in the freestyle which also earned him his first qualifying time for the next competition level up - the North East regional championships in May. Niall Coulthard took on 100m and 200m freestyle, qualifying for the 200m final where he finished fourth. Emma Price entered twelve events and swam in all nine sessions, amassing twenty swims as she qualified for all but one final. Eight new PBs were set as she retained her 200m freestyle title and added the 100m and 400m freestyle golds as well. Silver medals were won in 200m backstroke, 200m individual medley, 100m butterfly and 800m freestyle. She also won bronze in 50m backstroke and 400m individual medley. At the time of writing, Emma's 200, 400 and 800m freestyle swims all place her second in British long course rankings, showing this is a swimmer with a real talent. Chief Coach John Moore was



absolutely delighted with everyone's performances over the two weekends. He stressed "winning is important but even more so the manner in which you win". The number of medals won by Emma is the highest by one swimmer he has had at this competition as far as he could remember.

Sedgefield 75 swimming club is based in Newton Aycliffe offering coaching for post-swimming lesson children with a route to national competitions via local, county and regional



levels.
www.sedgefield75.com

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Saturday 29th February 2020

The Big Club

Newton Aycliffe DL5 5NU - Doors Open 7.00pm

Tickets £4 each available from the Big Club Bar & Newton Press
(Pay on the door for £5.00)