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Work Experience at Bewick Surgery

During February half-term, Bewick Crescent Surgery hosted work experience students from Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and Durham Sixth Form College. As the students are all considering a career in medicine their experience included shadowing the administrative and clinical teams, and they were also able to observe some patient consultations. Dr. Ruth Lund (GP Partner, pictured) said: "As a training practice we are keen to help the next generation of trainee GPs to qualify, and with the national shortage of GPs it is important that we



encourage students into the profession as early as possible. The Partners are grateful to all our staff who host these students, and

particularly appreciate the help given by our patients who allow the students to sit in during their consultations."

Applications for the February 2021 experience will be accepted from December 2020.

Sixth form students can apply through the Queen Elizabeth Work Experience team, or by letter of application direct to the Practice Manager.

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HONEST JOHN CLEARANCE SALE THIS WEEKEND

Friday 6th March
Saturday 7th March
Sunday 8th March
12noon to 4.00pm

After the sad passing of 'Honest' John Hilton on Friday 28th February, this weekend will be your last chance to purchase a bargain from John's Charity Shop. Members of Aycliffe Radio will be manning the shop in appreciation of all John did for the station. The Unit is based at 29 Durham Way South on Aycliffe Business Park DL5 6ZF.

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S.A.C.A.

School Aycliffe
Community Association

Murder Mystery Night

On Saturday 8th February we welcomed over 70 people to School Aycliffe Community Hall for our first Murder Mystery Night. The theme was a masked ball hosted by lottery winners. The tables were decorated with lights, paper money and chocolate coins.

Many of the guests were dressed for the occasion in gowns, tuxedos and masks. The actors, from Tall Tales Mysteries, set the scene and played the parts of the lottery winning couple and their rich neighbours. The acting was interspersed with clues and a pie and pea supper.

At the end of the evening prizes were awarded for the best team name and for the team that came closest to solving the mystery. It was a great night, enjoyed by all who attended, and I'm sure will be repeated.

Healthy Eating at Woodham



Woodham Academy's catering department are committed to providing and promoting a healthy, nutritional, balanced diet to their customers. They have adopted the School Food Standards policy which states that they should provide high quality ingredients with more whole grain items such

as whole grain rice and pasta whilst restricting fats and sugars in drinks and cooking methods. Linda Vipond, the schools catering manager, works continuously to provide an appealing and creative menu for their students in a safe and relaxing environment. Over the years they have introduced more wholegrain items on the menu and not only do they try and keep the old favourites on the menu such as a roast dinner or hunters' chicken, they also try and introduce some new trends and foods from around the world, such as Chimichangas, Keralan curry and Sri Lankan curry.

There are several options available at lunchtime, as well as the main menu they provide a sandwich/salad bar, pasta station, grab and go items, jacket potatoes and a high street market option. The school is very excited with the uptake of school meals this year with more students deciding to have a school lunch. The school works very closely with local suppliers to secure good value and quality of products to pass onto their customers. Woodham Academy is very proud to retain their 5-star award from environmental health following a recent inspection this year. Healthy eating and wellbeing are a key part

of preparing students for learning and this plays an important role in promoting healthy habits. Students are encouraged to make healthy choices throughout the school day. Menus are available to view on the school website and if you have any concerns or special diets to discuss please contact Linda Vipond.

Neville Community Association

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th March at 6.45pm in Neville Community Centre.

There will be a presentation from Sonya Ingledew about Dog Behaviour and how to deal with it. Refreshments will be available from 6.30pm. Come down and join us for a cuppa and a chat and bring your friends.

Moving With the Times



After rebuilding J59 Classic Cars & Restoration Ltd from Simon J. Robinson, the business has gone from strength to strength and as the times and trends have changed, we have changed with them.

Following on from this it has been decided to change the name to AIM Retro Classics Limited. This reflects we not only deal with traditional Classics but also Retro and Modern Classics of the 70's, 80's, 90's and 00's. In addition, we repair, service and restore all makes and models from the early 20th century to the early 2000's, all carried out onsite within our workshop and bodyshop.

Not only do we buy and sell cars ourselves, selling cars

Local Family 'Dive In' in Memory of Andrea Bowes

Health and Wellbeing Charity the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) recently welcomed the Summerbell family who kindly donated £500 in memory of their family member, Andrea Bowes, for the Hydrotherapy Pool Fundraiser.

The family set about raising funds from their local community to donate to various organisations that helped to support Andrea throughout her life. Andrea started coming to PCP's hydrotherapy pool when it first opened over 20 years ago and was a regular visitor, sometimes visiting up to four times a week!

Andrea's brother-in-law said: "Andrea has used the pool since the Pioneering Care Centre opened. She thoroughly enjoyed every second of visiting here, as soon as we'd pull into the car park she would be so excited and in fits of giggles! Hydrotherapy helped Andrea with her muscle pain but also benefited her socially, she met so many new people and became friends with them all. We want to keep her memory alive here as it was one of her favourite places, and we want to help and support PCP as much as we can."

In an emotional visit the family met with Lynsey Todd, Head of Customer Experience, had a tour of the Centre and were introduced to staff that supported Andrea. Lynsey explained, "The benefits of Hydrotherapy are well evidenced, but when we hear directly from people about the difference using



our pool makes for their loved ones it is very moving. It was an absolute pleasure to meet the Summerbell family and to listen to their stories about Andrea's visits to the Centre. Being friendly and supportive is important to everyone at PCP and we're pleased that Andrea enjoyed her experience with us and we look forward to

welcoming the family back when the refurbishment is complete."

If you are interested in supporting the Hydrotherapy Pool Fundraising appeal please contact PCP on 01325 321234 or email enquiries@pcp.uk.net.

Photo: Summerbell family supporting PCP's funding appeal

aycliffe radio presents a **BIG CLUB**

st. patrick's night special

on Saturday, 14th March, 2020
at The Big Club, Newton Aycliffe
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Saturday 7th March - "7 Sins"
Gig Pit Review: "First time for me to catch the 7 Sins at Murton's Big Club, I really enjoyed the band, a great selection of rock covers from Tom Petty, Free, Kings of Leon, Def Leppard, Bad Company, Kaiser Chiefs, Simple Minds. The standard of playing was excellent Bill Brown on rhythm and lead vocals has a great tone to his voice and is a great front man who likes to get the audience involved with his jokes and banter. The other members play to a very high standard lead guitar, bass - and a cracking drummer that captures the feel and sound of the drummers that had crafted the songs that they covered. All in all what a great night."

Saturday 14th March - "The Whole Hog"
Top musicians having a good time whilst playing and always carry the crowd with them.

Saturday 21st March - "The Gatecrashers"

Saturday 28th March - "Vinyl Chimes"

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Spring Fling

Dear Sir,
Darlington Flower Club are holding a Spring Fling at Headlam Hall Hotel on Wednesday 25th March 2020, commencing at 10.00am.
A beauty presentation and retail therapy, followed by lunch and guest speaker from charity 'Centre of Excellence for Breast Cancer'.
Tickets are £30 each and available from 01325 493084



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

Next Meeting:
Wednesday 11th March
from 6-7pm
School Aycliffe C.C.
Thursday 12th March
from 6-7pm
Aycliffe Village Hall

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

Nathan Cuthbertson Thai Boxing Memorial Event



An evening of Muay Thai Boxing will take place in the Lancaster Suite, Gateshead NE11 9JR on Sunday 3rd May 2020. Doors for this prestigious event will open at midday with the first fight taking place at 1.00pm.

The fights that will take place will be between the Parachute Regiment and the Royal Navy, all in memory of local man, Pte Nathan Cuthbertson of the 2nd Para Unit, who was sadly killed in action in Afghanistan in 2008.

Serving Paratrooper, Craig, who trains with Dave at the Cuthy 200 Thai Boxing Club & Fitness Academy will fight a member of the Royal Navy for a belt, honouring Nathan.

Forces sweetheart Kirsten Osborne will perform the National Anthem and Nathan's parents, Tom, Carla and his family will be also attending.

Tickets for the event are now on sale priced £20 for adults and £10 for children. VIP ringside seats are £300 for a table of ten. For more information ring 07791 832266.



Nathan Cuthbertson



Craig Coatsworth



David Corrigan

Rock Your Odd Socks for Together 21

On Saturday 21st March, North East Charity Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) will be planting both feet firmly behind the global awareness event World Down Syndrome Day and raising much needed funds for our Together 21 project. This year's theme is "We Decide" and was inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. PCP are encouraging people to "Rock Your Socks" by digging into the back of their drawers to hunt out those lonely odd socks and wear them with pride to raise awareness and support for Together 21 by sharing photos on social media using #T21RYS2020.

Together 21 focuses on the specific learning needs of children with Down syndrome and provides a safe space for children and families to build friendships within peer groups, develop practical skills, boost confidence and celebrate successes whilst encouraging every child to realise their individual potential. Brenda, Annabelle's mother, said: "Together 21 has given

me the skills to communicate with my beautiful daughter and a platform on which we can start our path together, learning new skills from both parents and staff. It's shown me what Annabelle is able to achieve both now and in the future, and now I can stop thinking 'What if'. It's given us lifelong friends, knowledge and an insight into what Annabelle's future goals will be. It's given me the courage to look at Annabelle and see the beauty inside and out, and that she can become whatever she chooses by gaining knowledge from parents and staff about school etc. This group is vital for parents and children, as well as siblings. Without this group I don't know what I would have done! My confidence has soared! I love going to Together 21 and long may it continue."

Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive, said: "Working with the families to support the development of Together 21 and seeing the children blossom and grow in both skills and confidence is amazing. Yet securing funding to support the group is so difficult - we want to get



people talking and ultimately help us to raise vital funds. Wearing odd socks is a visible and fun way to get involved - employers could ask staff to donate £1 to wear odd socks for the day, school's - how about holding a non-uniform day and local

residents could join in too! The more the merrier, let's get trending social media with our odd socks!" To get find out how you can get involved please contact Jo Walker on T21. Rockyoursocks@pcp.uk.net or call 01325 321234.

IS 2020 YOUR YEAR TO QUIT SMOKING?

No Smoking Day is an annual health awareness day across the UK which aims to raise awareness of support to help smokers who want to quit smoking. No Smoking Day is on Wednesday 11th March 2020 and if you are thinking of quitting why not pop into the Pioneering Care Centre to pick up some information or to talk to a member of staff.

If you smoke, quitting is the single most important step you can take to protect the health of your heart. Even if you've smoked for years, quitting will still reduce your risk of heart and circulatory diseases. It's

never too late to quit. You might notice benefits sooner than you think:

- 20 minutes after you quit smoking, your heart rate and blood pressure return to normal.
 - After 2-3 days your sense of smell and taste improve.
 - After 2-12 weeks exercise becomes easier and your breathing improves.
 - After 1 year your risk of having a heart attack is half that of a smoker.
- For further information about stopping smoking please contact the Wellbeing for Life Team on 0800 8766887 or online: www.wellbeingforlife.net

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Litter Picking Mini Police



St. Joseph's Mini Police were out again in the community, picking up litter last week. Their message is "Don't be rubbish - put your litter in the bin!" In the 45 minutes they were out they had picked up 268 pieces of litter.

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PARLIAMENT TALK

Paul Howell, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield

This has been a week with two big lows in it for me, not only was it incredibly sad to hear that Honest John passed away last Friday but on Monday my good friend and ex boss, Dale Alexander, also passed on. Both of these men made a real impression on me and both will be sorely missed, RIP gents.

Before that, my first efforts last week were to attend Durham County Council's meeting last Wednesday where the annual budget was passed by Council, there was no acknowledgement that this years funding was significantly better than the council anticipated only a few months ago and all of the opposition amendments were voted down. It was disappointing that there was a constant theme from the opposition benches that members were not being listened to and I heard nothing in the responses from Cabinet to make me disagree with the claims. With more defections from Labour to Independent in recent weeks, we can only hope that in May 2021 voters elect enough non Labour members to remove this absolute control.

The best parts of my week are always when I can get out and about and this week gave me some great opportunities. I have been to Net Park for discussions with one of the high tech companies to see some amazing tools they are creating to keep us safe; a trip around the port of Tees to see the great plans they are developing and I was at Teesside Airport for the launch of a Tees Valley Magazine promoting our region.

In between these I went to Ferryhill Station to visit the Primary school where I am a Governor and do a walkabout with the CAT team. The CAT (Community Action Team) do fabulous work in trying to help improve neighbourhoods

and they always impress me. I also joined the Secretary of State for the Department for Work and Pensions, Thérèse Coffey, in a visit to Husqvarna on Newton Aycliffe Business Park before then accompanying her to visit the Ferryhill Ladder Centre chaired by Cllr Peter Atkinson. This is a community building, bought by the community for the community, it opened in 2002 and they offer courses and support with CV's, Universal Job Match, advice and guidance, children and youth sessions. They were able to share their challenges and needs direct with the Secretary of State which made this a very worthwhile visit. I also took a tour round the Trimdon, Thornley and Wheatley Hill area with community leaders.

Another pleasure during the week was the Aycliffe Mayors Civic Dinner on Friday, a lovely event hosted by Cllr Mary Dalton. Mary was quick to tell me both how young she was and that she hadn't voted for me, I have told her she can try harder next time! We had a great evening with a number of other Mayors and Councillors present and raised money for her chosen charity S.S.A.F.A. (The Armed Forces Charity). I continue to lobby the Government for a fair Fair Funding Review and I have met with both Council leaders to ensure I am fully briefed on their priorities and on both Monday and Tuesday I met with the Chancellor and was able to promote the priorities for us locally as he finalises his Budget preparations.

This week I look forward to surgeries in both Sedgefield and Middleton St George and we hope to move into our office in Newton Aycliffe.

Have a good week
Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

25th ANNIVERSARY PEDAL TO PARIS



Nigel Blackburn was fortunate enough to participate in the Pedal to Paris cycle ride back in 2018 in support of The Royal British Legion. Pedal to Paris is now in its 25th year and is a ride from Central London to Central Paris, a total of 460 kms over 4 days, which culminates with an epic finish on closed roads through France at the Arc de Triomphe. Back in 2018 over 280 cyclists participated, not only raising awareness for The Legion but much needed funds as well. These funds go on to support initiatives such as the Battle Back programme and other rehabilitation and wellbeing activities.

Inspired by his ride in 2018, Nigel and another ex-Army friend volunteered to crew the Baggage Truck for the 2019 ride. Having returned from Paris Nigel said: "To see the other side, the immense organisation and planning that goes into the annual event is amazing. All cyclists are communicated with, mentored and inspired by the the Legion staff from

the day they enter the event. Throughout the entire event they are extremely well catered for with the Legion providing all food, transport, overnight accommodation, cycle mechanics, medics and even masseurs for those tied legs on route to Paris!" "I have already committed to this year's 25th Anniversary Ride from 3-7 Sept 2020. The Legion are promising some extra surprises and I'm sure they will deliver. Coming from an ex-Army background I know what phenomenal work The Legion does to support the ex-service and serving military community and families, a lot of which live in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas".

If, like Nigel, you are inspired or want to join the 120 cyclists already signed up, you can enter at www.rbl.org.uk/PS22020. Nigel is of course trying to raise his own sponsorship for 2020 and would welcome any kind donations and indeed any Corporate Sponsorship for this worthy charity at www.justgiving/fundraising/pedaltoparis2020-nigelblackburn

If you are a local business and would like to support The Royal British Legion please get in touch with Nigel Blackburn.

Excelpoint Shortlisted in the Small Business Award Category 2020

North East based software innovator Excelpoint is proud to announce it has successfully secured a place in the final three in the first round of the Small Business Award, shortlisted from over 25 businesses from across the North East.

Celebrating business innovation and commitment in the North East, the Business Awards highlight success, hard work and achievement from across the region.

The Small Business Award category recognises small businesses of less than 75 members of staff paying particular attention to managerial and financial performance; growth potential; evidence of commitment and imagination in product or service; and what differentiates the company from its competitors.

The category is sponsored by The North East Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) a bustling business community based on the banks of the River Wear in Sunderland. Paul McEldon and David Howell of BIC visited Excelpoint as part of their judge's role to find out more about the fast-growing software company.

Commenting on the announcement, Ian Brown Managing Director at Excelpoint said: "We are so proud to be recognised by the North East Business Awards. As a key player in the no-code software sector, we have supported companies across the region to streamline and automate their business processes.

This is fantastic recognition for the company and our software platform, and importantly for the amazing team at Excelpoint who have all played an integral role in achieving success."

The recognition has coincided with Excelpoint's recent move into a new custom-designed state-of-the-art office within The Work Place, Aycliffe Business Park.

The move represented a significant milestone for Excelpoint with the new office space accommodating its growing team and enabling it to hire additional talent to continue to provide industry-leading support

and service to its global clients.

The new space reflects the innovative culture of Excelpoint and will continue to make it a great place to work. The facility features technical conference and meeting facilities where it can collaborate on solutions with colleagues, customers, partners and offsite employees.

It is certainly an exciting time for Excelpoint, and the team is looking forward to the awards night on the 12th of March.

Operating in the fourth industrial revolution, Excelpoint streamline and automate business processes, helping customers to realise efficiencies and significant cost-savings.

Excelpoint has developed its software into a unique system-building platform that can be configured into scalable solutions, to deliver end-to-end enterprise-wide systems for customers, up to

ten times faster than bespoke development projects.

The software is currently utilised across sectors including engineering, manufacturing, energy, the NHS, utilities and the nuclear sector, and is used by organisations of all sizes. Customers include the globally recognised brands of EDF Cyclife, Mitie, Minova Global, Wood, Anglian Water and Denholm Group.

As process automation takes a central position within the IT investment landscape, Excelpoint has established itself as a key player, future-proofing agile and innovative solutions for businesses across all sectors. For more information about Excelpoint, please visit www.excelpoint.co.uk, follow Excelpoint on LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, telephone 01325 375930 or email sales@excelpoint.co.uk



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Night Out for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Dear Sir,
I am Rebecca Lister, a teacher, who has set up a night out for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities, providing a safe and inclusive environment for adults to socialise.

We are planning a night out at Darlington Cricket Club on Friday 3rd April from 7.00pm to 10.00pm, people can dance, access a bar selling alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks but more importantly, have fun!

If you would like to join us or would like more information please contact me on 07985 230252.
Rebecca Lister
SENtral Nights

For more information
please contact
01325 321234

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Café**



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as dementia or simply want to socialise.



John Hilton aka Honest John

21st February 1951 to 28th February 2020 - Aged 69

John Hilton, affectionately known as Honest John, passed away on Friday 28th February 2020 after a short illness, bravely borne.

John's selfless and generous charity work in Newton Aycliffe will never be forgotten and has changed so many lives and many more organisations in the local area.

John leaves behind close friends Val and Roger and many acquaintances around Newton Aycliffe.

Honest John's Fundraising Stall was first launched in 2007, initially set up to raise money for any community organisations or clubs based in Newton Aycliffe who were struggling and needed help. John took no payment from the stall and all money taken was given back to the local community.

Honest John 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. November 2019 saw the start of the thirteenth year John was to help local organisations – up to that time he had raised over £220,000.00.

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. He then moved to a larger self-contained unit on the Aycliffe Business Park.

For last few months John had



been feeling unwell, which eventually took a turn for the worse at the beginning of February. Realising that his health was not good he took the decision to retire from his charity work.

"In the late 1980's John penned and performed a Beatles Roadshow, where he entertained through a mobile disco, playing Beatles tracks and telling stories and giving his knowledge of the Fab Four. At these events he held auctions and quizzes raising money for charities. John was so into the group that he renamed his home Fab 4 Arrowsmith Square and changed his name via deed poll to John 'Lennon' Hilton. I enjoyed accompanying John on these outings and helping to raise funds. John also recorded a series of 60s shows for Aycliffe Radio which we will plan to play again" said Paul Howarth. In 1994, John and his close friend Roger took a trip to New York. John's only time abroad, he had never flown before and it was to be a big adventure for him.

The plan was to take a taxi to Darlington and a coach to Manchester airport. On arrival at John's home, Roger found John was still in bed. "That was John, so laid back and nonchalant, nothing phased him. With his skills at publicity, promotion and unique ideas, he would have made a fantastic marketing executive and made a career from it", said Roger.

John will be forever remembered for his kind heart, his big donations and generosity, a huge personality who will be sorely missed. He deserves his place in our town's history. According to John's wishes, there will be no Funeral Service. However, plans are in place to remember John, keep an eye on your Newton News for future plans to commemorate this unique person's life.

A Kind, Cheery Soul

Dear Sir,
It came as a great shock to hear of the demise of my old friend, Honest John Hilton. John has done much for the community of Great Aycliffe and beyond through his charitable contributions and support for worthwhile projects.

Much of the great work carried out in our communities was either financed by John, or has been carried out by groups who have received funding from him. My own organisation Little ACORNS has received support previously from his community fund and we are very grateful for the help we received.

Honest John Hilton will be a name cemented into the history of our community for eternity, as one of our foremost local heroes and he will be missed by all who knew him as a kind, cheery soul, who took time to talk to everyone. Best wishes, Ken Robson

Significant Contribution

Dear Sir,
It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of John Hilton, affectionately known as Honest John, on Friday 28th February after what appears to have been a short illness. It is very evident and well documented what John has done through his fundraising for so many clubs, charities and organisations over the past twelve years. He always spoke with empathy and compassion for others whom he saw as less fortunate than himself and never wished to receive any recognition.

I wish to sincerely thank John for the generous donations towards the MRI Scanners at Darlington Memorial and Bishop Auckland Hospitals as well as the Chemotherapy Centre at University Hospital North Durham. The installation of the scanners, now nearly two years ago, are having huge benefits for many people.

John told me more than once that his satisfaction was knowing that his work was making a difference to the lives of others. His creativity in utilising unwanted items for the purpose of fundraising and not forgetting protection of our environment are worthy of any innovation.

John will be greatly missed for many reasons and I do hope that there will be some form of acknowledgement for him for the significant contribution he has made to our community. I do know that John was well supported and cared for by Val and my deepest sympathy is extended to her at this very sad time.

Professor Paul Keane, OBE

THE REAL FABRIC OF SOCIETY

Dear Sir,
It was incredibly sad to hear that Honest John passed away last Friday.

I last saw John in early February when I called in to see him and there was no sign of what was to come, just John doing what John did and what a fantastic contribution he made over the years.

I was able to call him last week and he was content in himself, just very tired but not frightened by death. It was a privilege to know him and in some small way try to support him.

My thoughts are with those closest to him, they will miss him the most, but he should never be forgotten by us all.

It is people like John who are the real fabric that keeps society together and his inspiration will, hopefully encourage others to follow. R.I.P. John, you will leave a big hole.

Paul Howell
Member of Parliament
for Sedgefield

Remember Honest John in Style

Dear Sir,
When I penned my letter as a tribute to the retiring Honest John last week, little did I know that it would be printed and John would not get the opportunity to read it. I saw the sad news on The Newton News Facebook site on Saturday that he had passed away the night before after being rushed to Hospital during the day.

I feel it is important that we remember the work of this man and hopefully continue his legacy within the Newton Aycliffe community. It would be good if his friends and customers could all rally round and at the very least clear any outstanding commitments such as rent, electricity etc. I know just

last year John had news of a rent increase an increase that led to some local businesses moving on.

I have attended a number of well run charity nights at The Big Club it is something they do really well in the heart of the town centre. Wouldn't it be good if we could have a memorial night with local entertainers including a few Beatles songs of course, run raffles etc. Display his signs with his well know caricature on them in the entrance and on the stage.

Let's raise a couple of thousand pounds, any surplus after clearing commitments should go to local charities. I know John would have loved this, a final deed to local people. As an avid Newton

News and social media reader I have noticed the work done by Community Spirit Newton Aycliffe. They would probably use the funds for the good of the town's people.

Some have suggested a seat with his name on it. This would be another good idea, maybe on the spot where his market stall started, if the Town Centre management would agree. Place it outside where the newsagent used to be.

So, I end this with a repeat from last week's letter, thank you John for the bit's and bobs, thank you John for your work in the Newton Aycliffe community and thank you John for the friendship you gave us all.

Darren Clarke

Charity Swimathon 2020

The annual event SWIMATHON run by the Rotary Clubs and Darlington Lions Club is now inviting entries from any organisation, groups or school wishing to raise funds for themselves and our headline charity for 2020, Prostate Cancer UK.

The event, now in its 39th year, has raised over £390,000 for local and national charities and has benefited schools,

scout groups and local organisations.

The event will again be held at the Spennymoor Leisure Centre on Sunday 10th May and will continue throughout the day.

The children and adults, in teams of up to 6, are sponsored to swim as many lengths of the baths as they can in 55 minutes and with 6 lanes in use this generates a great fun atmosphere. A number

of trophies are given for teams raising the most money, swimming the most lengths and for individual efforts and these are given out at a presentation night held in October.

If you would like to take part in this event and keep 50% of your fundraising for your own organisation, a copy of the entry form is show below or please contact John Snowball on 01325 317804.

**PLEASE REGISTER YOUR TEAM EARLY
IN ORDER TO OBTAIN YOUR SPONSORSHIP FORMS.
YOU DO NOT NEED THE NAMES OF YOUR
SWIMMERS UNTIL THE DAY OF THE SWIM**

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Name of Team

Name of Contact

Address of Contact

..... Postcode:.....

Telephone Number

Email.....

**EXACT TITLE of Charity or
Good Cause nominated to receive
half of sponsorship raised by team**

Signature of Team Contact

The organisers reserve the right to refuse the nomination of a "cause" which is considered inappropriate. Any refusal will be given in writing following receipt of this entry form.

Sessions will start promptly on the hour, every hour, from 9am to 4pm. Whilst no guarantee can be given, every effort will be made to accommodate your preferred time.

PLEASE STATE YOUR PREFERRED START TIME

9.00am ☐ 10.00am ☐ 11.00am ☐ 12noon ☐

1.00pm ☐ 2.00pm ☐ 3.00pm ☐ 4.00pm ☐

If children under the age of 14 are competing a Parent's Consent Statement must be completed on sponsorship form. NOTE: Confirmation of time of swim and sponsor forms will be forwarded by the organisers to the Team Contact, whose responsibility it is to advise the team of all relevant information.

Please return to Swimathon Chairperson:

ROBERT HILLARY

6 Edgecombe Drive, Darlington DL3 9DS

Tel: 01325 462074 Mob: 07453 369571

roberthillarydarlington@ntlworld.com



Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group

Presents an

St. Clare's Church

Saturday 28th March

10.00am till 2.00pm

Craft Stalls - Bake Sale - Tombola

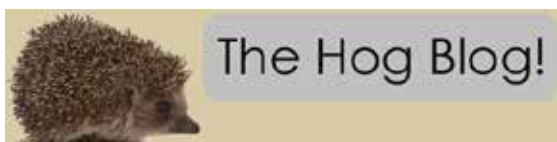
Plus many more stalls

Children's Easter Egg Competition

(£1.00 to enter)

St. Clare's weekly Coffee Morning will also be run alongside our Fundraising Event, so refreshments will be available

EVERYONE WELCOME



Logico Awarded DVSA Earned Recognition Status

After six intense months of putting stringent processes and procedures in place, Logico NE Ltd, who are Transport Compliance and Management Specialists, are now an authorised audit provider for the Driver and Vehicles Standards Agency (DVSA).

Logico, who were established in 2018, are the first and only company in the North East of England to become authorised auditors for the DVSA earned recognition. Earned recognition is a new way for Transport operators to prove they meet road safety standards; this is completed by uploading Key Performance Indicators (KPI) information via a DVSA-validated IT system. To achieve this prestigious audit status, Logico has also secured ISO9001:2015 accreditation and Internal Audit certifications.

After spotting a gap in the market for transport compliance, managing director Lisa Fleming set up Logico using her 17 years of transport industry knowledge. Logico are fast becoming the go to experts around transport compliance and have grown substantially in a short space of time.

As part of its growth plans, Logico has employed two new members of staff. Samantha Surtees who is Business Manager and successfully completed and oversaw the company's ISO9001:2015 accreditation. Stephen Gosnay who was recruited back in November to drive sales for the business, has successfully supported growth acceleration within the business.

Logico can help protect



operator licence holders in the transport industry from going to public inquiry for failing to adhere to the strict compliance regulations, which could result in them losing their operator licence or worst-case scenario, ending up in jail.

In a further show of strength, managing director, Lisa, has been nominated in the 'Inspiring Female Awards' for her role in driving forward the transport company in what is a male dominated sector. Lisa commented on these achievements: "I am extremely proud, not only of myself but of my team. We all work extremely hard and I feel there is a real need for what we provide. I am honoured to have achieved the authorised auditor status for the DVSA recognition scheme."

"We offer our fully qualified services in transport

compliance, HR and Law. We can transform our client's business, which will save time, money and put more productive hours back into their organisation. We can manage any fleet size from one to an unlimited number of vehicles, and with our digital technology, we can streamline a busy transport office to a productive, sleek and digital operation."

"This is all done following the strict guidelines of the DVSA, so you can rest easy knowing that your operation will be fully compliant and to the highest standards set by the DVSA. We also adhere to our ISO 9001 guidelines that again we are proud to say we hold. Our customers range in size from one truck, on an owner driver basis, to looking after large fleets that cover nationwide and internationally."

THE INSIDE STORY: Conserving Auckland Castle

Up until Sunday, 6th September 2020, Bishop Trevor Gallery at Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7NP will be open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, last admission 3pm. Discover what goes on behind the scenes of a major conservation project in this new exhibition, revealing the processes and techniques used to restore Auckland Castle to its former glory. After three years of conservation work, Auckland Castle re-opened to the public in November

2019. Internal building work uncovered features of the building that had remained unseen for hundreds of years along with many other secrets.

Entry to Bishop Trevor Gallery is included with admission to Auckland Castle. Admission prices £10 for adults, £8 for concessions, £3 for under-16s or included with Auckland Pass ticket, priced at £12.50 per adult and valid for multiple visits to all Auckland Project sites until January 2021.



It has been such a busy week at our newly formed Prickly Haven Rescue which has kept myself, Viv and Joan exceptionally busy. Over the course of the last few days I have taken two little ones out of our own garden here at Cobblers Hall, too small to endure these extreme weather conditions, indoors now and eating very well with no other health issues at this time. A boy on Monday morning, we have called him Ben, and a little girl Tuesday night, a name has to be thought of for her. Meanwhile, Miracle Molly is responding to antibiotics and pain relief, she has had something rather sharp injure her just above her left leg and paw, very much a work in progress. It's without

a doubt that had we not brought them in when we did, we would have had some either really poorly hogs or even worse, dead ones.

We now have 14 hedgehogs in our care all of which are doing really well.

Can I thank June for reading this blog and her offer of some much needed help for the Community Spirit Fair, the fundraising is a crucial aspect because we are self funded, all the support we get for these prickly pals is very much appreciated.

If you need any help with a hedgehog, the British Hedgehog Preservation Society are still ready for your calls on 01584 890801 or the hedgehog street App is also a valuable tool. Maxine, Viv and Joan Prickly Haven Rescue

Cars Cause Damage to Grass Verges



I thought you might like to publish this photograph of damage to the grass by some uncaring car driver. Where I was standing to take the photograph there is off road parking, but someone thought it would be OK to park on the grass, then must have got stuck, this is opposite Shafto Way veterinary surgery.

Name and address supplied

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT
NEWTON AYLCLIFFE

Spring Craft Fayre

AT
THE BIG CLUB

WMC - Sheraton Road

Date 14th MARCH 2020 Time 11am - 3pm

Lots of Local Craft Stalls

Refreshments available at the Springtime Cafe

£1.00 Entry with a free tea or coffee!

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

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

Easter Quiz

Friday 27th March, School Aycliffe Community Centre
£6 per person, max 6 in a team

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

ACORN Petting Zoo

Saturday 18th April, Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 10-2pm
£1 admission

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

Five Generations Celebrate



Celebrating Godfrey's 80th birthday recently gave us the opportunity to meet up with our family members from Scotland and to meet our latest addition, we are now a five generation family.

We had a lovely time and would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and for supporting the raffle which raised £154 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service, Godfrey rounded the figure up to £300 from the Allsorts Charity Shop, which he runs next to St Clare's Church.

County Durham's BRASS Festival Returns

Two new artistic directors will oversee one of the region's liveliest festivals when it returns this summer. Lorna Fulton and Sue Collier have been appointed to direct Durham Brass Festival for 2020, which will see brilliant bands and musicians from around the world performing in locations across the county between Friday 10 and Sunday 19 July.

Last year, more than 40,000 people enjoyed the Durham County Council event and Sue and Lorna hope to build on the festival's international reputation. With more than 20 years' experience in curating, developing, leading and delivering high profile cultural programmes and festivals, programme director Lorna brings with her a wealth of knowledge and a passion for family-friendly cultural events.

Lorna has an impressive career history and has produced several high-profile events including the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad in the region, Freedom City and Saltwell Park's annual Enchanted Parks event. She was also part of the team responsible for bringing the Lindisfarne Gospels back to the North East for their 2013 Durham exhibition.

Sue, who is currently festival programmer for the Mouth of the Tyne Festival and Lamplight Festival, has worked in the music and cultural industry for over 25 years. As a tour manager, Sue worked with a variety of acts including The Ordinary Boys, The Specials and Fat Freddy's Drop.

The range of programming roles she has held includes venues such as Newcastle Mayfair, Sage Gateshead, York Barbican and The Playhouse, Whitley Bay, and Sue is committed to bringing quality live music and entertainment to a broad audience.



Lorna said: "Sue and I are delighted to be appointed as the new artistic directors of Durham Brass Festival and are very excited to bring our ideas to life this July. We have a strong track record of working on festivals and music programmes and are looking forward to creating new collaborations between contemporary and traditional artists, to delight our Durham audiences."

Sue said: "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to play a part in the wonderful Durham BRASS Festival. The festival has grown over the years into something really special, not just for the region but also nationally and internationally, and brass artists really seem to feel at home here at this festival. Both Lorna and myself are excited to explore how we can continue to develop the festival, both musically, by combining very special collaborations with contemporary musicians, and artistically through the involvement of other artists and art forms to interpret their vision of all things BRASS."

Cllr Joy Allen, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for Transformation, Culture and Tourism, said: "I'm excited to welcome Sue and Lorna to the BRASS festival. As a team they have great credentials and have delivered many fantastic musical and cultural events. I know they're both eager to

create a stellar line up for the festival, which will cater for all tastes and ages.

"BRASS is always a highlight of the summer in County Durham, not only for residents and tourists but also for our local businesses who benefit from the economic boost that the increase in visitors brings. Last year's action-packed programme of concerts and street parties were enjoyed by a record number of people and I can't wait to see what Sue and Lorna have planned to make this year even bigger and better."

S.A.C.A.

School Aycliffe
Community Association

Easter Quiz

at School Aycliffe
Community Association
Friday 27th March
7.30pm onwards

Quiz Evening featuring our resident Quiz Master, Mr Stephen Quigley. Cost £6.00 per person (maximum number per team is 6). Please bring your own nibbles and drinks, contact Georgette on 07951 758118 for further details. And finally a date for your diary is our AGM on Monday 6th April, 7.30pm start.



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

9-10am	Eurovision Show	Simon Harding
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
12-2pm	Country / Americana	David Ringer
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
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
6.30-8pm	Independent Music Show	Joey Collins
8-10pm	Alternative Aycliffe	Gaz n Alby

THURSDAY

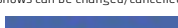
10-12am	Golden Years	Paul Baker
12-1pm	A to Z of Pop	Richard Smith
1-3pm	Afternoon Aycliffe	Paul Baker
6-8pm	The List	Colin McNeillie
8-10pm	BeatRoote	Graeme Roote

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	
10-12am	Martin Norris - Movin' Melodies	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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NOW SHOWING:

Sonic The Hedgehog - Underwater
The Invisible Man - Dolittle
Dark Waters - Downhill
1917 - Call of the Wild
Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey - Emma
David Copperfield - Bad Boys for Life
JoJo Rabbit - Just Mercy
Jumanji: The Next Level
Little Women - Parasite - Star Wars
Spies in Disguise - The Gentlemen

History TALK

Middridge Village History Society present David Butler on Durham County and its Turnpike Road at the Village Hall on Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm. The Great North Road, passing through the county, was one of the first local roads to be turnpiked in the Eighteenth Century; but Durham's mineral wealth, both coal and lead and the transport requirements, resulted in a network of road improvements, which extended far up Durham's Dales. The reason for the turnpiking, its benefits and its eventual abolition will be examined along with the turnpike which is local to Middridge - the Piercebridge and Tudhoe Lane End road. Admission is free to members; visitors £3.00, refreshments included and everyone is most welcome.

SAVERS CAN EARN 50P FOR EVERY £1 THEY SAVE WITH HELP TO SAVE SCHEME

Around 7,800 people in the North East have signed up to the government's Help to Save saving scheme – depositing more than £2 million, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has revealed. Help to Save offers working people on low incomes a 50% bonus, rewarding savers with 50p for every £1 saved. Over four years, a maximum bonus of £1,200 is available on savings of up to £2,400. The scheme helps those on lower incomes build up a 'rainy day' fund and encourages a long-term savings habit. How much is saved and when is up to the account holder, and they don't need to pay in every month to get a bonus. John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury



said: "Putting aside some money every month, even if it is only a small amount, can make the world of difference. And with Help to Save, we'll help you make that money go even further. "It's great to see so many people getting a 50 per cent boost on their savings. I'd urge anyone eligible to sign up to this scheme, which is

flexible, secure and easy to use." Stephanie Newton from Sunderland, who is using the Help to Save scheme, said: "I decided to join because it was an excellent opportunity and incentive. It was extremely easy to sign up and I now know that saving a small amount each month is achievable, and know it is important to have savings put aside in case of any unexpected costs.

"I have already recommended the scheme to friends and family." Help to Save is available to working people on tax credits, or Universal Credit with a minimum earned income equivalent to 16 hours per week at the National Living Wage in their last assessment period. Account holders can save between £1 and £50 every calendar month and accounts last for four years from the date the account is opened. After two years, savers get a 50% tax-free bonus on the highest balance they've achieved. If they continue saving, they could receive another 50% tax-free bonus after a further two years. To check eligibility, apply and get more information savers can visit www.gov.uk/helpertosave or use the HMRC app.

Carers Discount Scheme Receives Makeover

A discount card, which recognises and rewards the support unpaid carers provide to their neighbours, friends and loved ones, has been updated.

One talented teen gave the young carers card a colourful makeover, whilst older carers helped to influence the design of the adult carers card. Durham County Carers Support have also worked hard to negotiate a host of new discounts.

The County Durham and Darlington Carers Card, developed in partnership with Durham County Council, the region's NHS clinical commissioning groups and Darlington Borough Council, offers carers discounts and concessions at retail and leisure venues throughout County Durham and Darlington.

Following recognition that two cards were needed, one for adults and one for young carers, talented designer and young carer, Harry Croft, used his art and ICT skills to update the design of the young carers card to make it more appealing for young people to use.

Seventeen-year-old Harry, from Durham, receives support from The Bridge Young Carers Project for people aged 5 to 18 years old. He was presented with his finalised card design in celebration of January's Carers Awareness Day and will use the design as part of his college portfolio.

Cllr Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet member for children and young people's services, said: "Harry has done a fantastic job refreshing the young carers card. Hopefully the new, colourful design will encourage young carers to use the scheme and take advantage of the fantastic



offers available to them."

In the month leading up to the relaunch of the carers card, Durham County Carers Support service, which offers advice and practical assistance to adults in an unpaid caring role, contacted dozens of local shops, cafes and businesses throughout County Durham and Darlington, to inspire them to join the scheme. Twenty-two new businesses got involved, bringing the total number of organisations offering discounts to 103.

Cllr Angela Surtees, Cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "Looking after a loved one can have a big impact on someone's finances, so it's great that unpaid carers are able to access these discounts and concessions.

"As part of the refresh of the card, the scheme's website has also been updated so it's now much easier for unpaid carers to search a wide range of offers, from home improvements to driving lessons, and from beauty treatments to food offers." More information about the discount scheme, including a list of organisations offering discounts, is available at www.durhamcarers.info/carerscard

To apply for a card, or to find out more about the support available to adults with a caring role, carers

can contact Durham County Carers Support on 0300 005 1213, or by email at admin@dccarers.org. Young carers, aged 5 to 18, can apply for a card and find out more about the support available to them, by contacting The Bridge Young Carer's Service on 0191 383 2520 or by emailing durhamyoungcarers@family-action.org.uk

ACORN Community Association

This month's meeting will be held on Thursday 12th March at 6.00pm in the Phoenix Club (upstairs). Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for the evening with free tea, coffee and biscuits. This month our speaker for the evening will be David Sutton-Lloyd who will update us on the Defibrillator situation and other things that he is involved with. Please note all the seats for the Whitby Trip, Beamish and Hall Hill Farm are now fully booked. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th.

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.

Office comes with:

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From 42m² (500ft²) to 89m² (958ft²)

For more information contact Stuart on 01325 300212



ONLY TWO UNITS LEFT

* Subject to small business relief

Mothers Union Daffodil Coffee Morning



Great Aycliffe's Mothers Union will be hosting a Daffodil Coffee Morning at St. Clare's Church on Saturday 14th March from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. As well as delicious home-made cakes, scones, pies and preserves – mouth watering bacon butties will be available. Super prizes on a range of raffles, tombolas and stalls are sure to tempt you also. All children will be able

to make a FREE surprise Mother's Day card / picture as we will have a craft table available manned by the children's team. To make the morning even more exciting the amazing SHINE CHOIR will be performing a range of songs for all to enjoy! All proceeds are for the upkeep of St. Clare's Church, a busy church which seeks to serve its' community well, so please come along, everyone is most welcome!

For more information please contact 01325 321234

Memory Café



The ARK
8/9 Silverdale Place
Newton Aycliffe
DL5 7DZ

Drop in for FREE every Tuesday from 1pm - 3pm

Enjoy memory games, activities and quizzes as well as music and refreshments!

Everyone is welcome! Whether you are caring for someone or have a memory problem such as dementia or simply want to socialise.



"Facts Do Not Cease to Exist Because You Ignore Them"

Dear Sir
I deliberately chose not to respond immediately to the (to put it politely) misinformation by Labour Leader Bob Fleming until after the By-election, but a response is required. Lest people think that false allegations go unchallenged. Facts do not cease to exist just because Bob tries to rewrite history and ignore them.

Fact 1 Bob Fleming did not become Leader in 1993 and Chairman of Finance replacing me.

Fact 2 John Dormer was Chairman of Finance 1991 to 1994, so when Bob said in 1993 he inherited a parlous financial situation in 1993; He was in fact Leader from 1991 through to 2000 and inherited it from himself and John Dormer.

I was Chairman of Finance 1994 to October 1995, Bob's late and delightful wife Angela was my Vice Chairman at that time and she took over as Chairman in October 1995, when I resigned prior to leaving the Parish for a short while. So Bob neither myself nor your late wife Angela left the council's Finances in any parlous state.

At the Full Council on 29th January this year Bob and his Labour cronies suspended Standing Orders so he could deliver a personal 21 minute sustained attack on me (and by defacto on Eddy Adam), immediately after that personal attack, they re-introduced standing orders so that no one else could speak for more than 5 minutes. To their credit, some Labour members did not vote for suspending the rules of debate.

Bob droned on at punishing length, you'd think that the law of averages would dictate that he'd have to say something interesting eventually, but somehow he defied mathematics.

I am also in full possession of the minutes and reports on the Council's Finances



before, after and including the 1993/94 accounts, which were set by Cllr. John Dormer, Angela Fleming and Bob in December/January 1994 before I and Angela took over and whilst Bob was Leader throughout. Neither Angela nor myself took out any loans of 17.3%. Nowhere does it state that any Councillors did anything wrong at anytime. Under Bob, Labour's recent ignoring of Council rules after over 40 years of full observance has disconcerted staff and Councillors alike.

I proposed Bob for Honorary Freeman but as you can see we are no longer friends! Dealing with a one party dictatorship is not easy. (Billy, I understand that WD40 is good for dealing with superglue if you find your lips stuck to someone's posterior. I would suggest anyone interested, might ask Billy about mobile phones when he ran the Cubby Charity in the Town Centre). Fortunately County and Town Council elections next year will enable the residents of Great Aycliffe to drain the swamp, again, like they did at the general election. But beware, Labour will not give up without fighting very dirty, you only have to see the recent By-election to notice that.

Cllr Arun M Chandran
Independent



PARKING PROBLEM SOLVED

To all Newtonions,
My opinion of this 'illegal parking' could be solved very easily, if the council, or authority who maintain these areas of grass, such as verges, where they are being ruined, would it not be prudent to make them into tarmac lay-bys, they are getting churned up all the time and then they have to be fixed again and again. What a waste of taxpayers money, I know that if this happened there would be an influx of caravans parked on them due to the very expensive storage prices, however, the council could sign these as no leisure vehicle parking.

Two of the main roads on the town are race tracks, Stephenson Way and Pease Way (near the park), on match days, usually on a Sunday it is a nightmare as vehicles are parked along Pease Way. If the council took up the grass verge this too could be a parking area. Pease Way is a bus route with "nip-points" which are useless, they do not slow the traffic at all, we have witnessed a small red Ford vehicle doing about 80 to 90mph along this road, and its exhaust 'silencer' is like a shot gun going off at about 10 bangs a time, the police have been notified regarding this vehicle. If you see this car or know whose it is, please report it to the police, he will end up killing someone or several people.

I am an ex-professional driver with 57 years of clean motoring behind me, it is not worth speeding on our town, so if you read this young man, your days of speeding will end up with you going to jail, please stop this now - go to Croft Circuit to speed.

A very concerned
Newtonian driver.

PARKING ISSUE WILL ONLY GET WORSE

Dear Sir,
I would like to repond to C Rollo's letter as follows:

"Hello Sir, it really is a serious issue, I have complained to the council for years regarding street parking issues, it is like water off the ducks back sir, however, blame must be attributed to lazy drivers who have garages and driveways.

I own three vehicles and all are garaged, my home is an ex-council property with three bedrooms, I have one garage with a 30 foot drive which used to be a garden; my leisure vehicle sits on this, while the car which is 15ft-9" long sits in the garage all day when not in use. We are lucky to have a piece of land that is a yard wide outside the garage and also there is an adopted highway the same width where we could have another car.

All of the houses in my area have these and I do not leave any of my vehicles out on the road, we have steel lockable gates front and back.

Back to the issue of lack of parking, not mentioning where I live, there are people who deliberately obstruct our egress and access, it has cooled off due to the police interaction and I thank them for their assistance. All the homes in our area have garages, but only a few ever use them, it is these people who need to be educated into using these fantastic assets, so Mr. C. Rollo, do you have a car that is on the road while you have a garage or drive? What effort does it take to get it off the road? These questions are extended to all Newtonians, who are too lazy to do as I do; have some common sense, it will only get worse.

Name & address supplied



What a busy week it has been for council and community! More (and detailed) information about all the following is available on my blog at: bit.ly/CNB155

DCCBUDGETMEETING

Last week began with the Durham County Council Full Council budget meeting. This financial year the government has given the Council £31 million it was not expecting, and the Council has been able to translate this into £194 million of upgraded services, new leisure facilities, climate actions, and a £20 million towns & villages regeneration fund. So the meeting consisted of the Labour Group supporting the proposed budget, and the opposition Groups presenting their amendments and proposals - most of which were suggestions about how they wanted to spend the regeneration money (with the Labour Group saying to every amendment: 'No - we're going to ask the public how they want that money spent'). As you might expect, the meeting generated debate, and the Northern Echo has focussed on the opposition to a Conservative amendment to stop the funding for a County Youth Council. For me, that issue - defeated comfortably 99 votes to 11 - was far less the highlight than Cllr Patterson's inspiring speech about what she hoped the extra funding might achieve for the County (I have reproduced that speech on my blog).

CO. DURHAM PLAN

Last week also the government planning Inspector approved-in-principle the County Durham Plan, which will make the Council's planning decisions, and its housing strategy, easier. The exception, however, was that he instructed the Council to delete the three proposed relief roads from the Plan ... which affects the Council's transport & traffic, emissions and economic growth strategies. Environmentalists have greeted the decision as a Climate Change victory, however, so the Inspector's decision about the relief roads is a two-edged sword in that respect.

OTHER MEETINGS

Talking about Climate Change, last week I attended a very thought-provoking lecture about where that initiative needs to go next. I also went on a march and rally in Durham in support of the WASPI women, sat in on a very

upbeat Extinction Rebellion debrief, and attended interesting meetings of the Great Aycliffe Town Council Environment and Recreation Committees, and of Middridge Parish Council.

AND FINALLY...

Congratulations to Aycliffe Business Park's Excelplan on being shortlisted for a Small Business Award, and to Greenfield School for its Future Business Magnates project ... and also to make readers aware that HealthWatch County Durham's March newsletter is published, with information about Coronavirus, eating disorder week, world Down Syndrome Day, diabetes prevention and more.

Williamfield Residents Meeting

A meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th March, 2020 at 5pm in The ARK (formerly Western Area Community Centre) in Silverdale House, Newton Aycliffe.

We are trying, with your help and ideas, to tidy up the area also with the help of Livin' and local Councillors.

Please try and attend.
For more information please ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

NEWTON NEWS

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 8th April 2020 - 7.15pm
Environment & Recreation Meetings

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

(CLARENCE GREEN AND TRAVELLERS GREEN, NEWTON AYCLIFFE) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2020

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic from proceeding on the phased closure of 225m of Clarence Green, Newton Aycliffe and 133m of Travellers Green, Newton Aycliffe to enable construction of new build property works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of closure access and egress will be maintained. The maximum duration of the Order is 18 months. The proposed works are to commence from 7.30am on 23/3/20 and are anticipated to be necessary for 18 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 6th March 2020



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

COMMUNITY SPIRIT NEWTON AYCLIFFE WANTS YOU!



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

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo of my little Yorkie "Bonnie", modelling her new jumper. Such a diva!
Thanks to Suzanne Price of Woodham for her photo, send your image to paul@newtonnews.co.uk



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Email: play.days@btconnect.com

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

Time to get a Wiggle and a Giggle on



Women in the area are being invited to have fun, keep fit and make new friends at walking netball sessions.

Every Monday from 10.00am to 11.00am, an enthusiastic group of Durham County Federation of Women's Institute members and friends, meet at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. The cost is only £3.00 per session and is hosted by Netball England on behalf of the W.I.

Lesley Jerred, Chairman of the Federation's Arts, Music and Leisure Committee,

is encouraging women of all ages, including non-members, to "get a wiggle and a giggle on".

She added: "Go along and enjoy the benefits of the exercise, the camaraderie, the laughs and just feeling good by taking part."

For more information, contact W.I. House on 01388 819100 Tuesday to Thursday or email durhamwi@btconnect.com. The Leisure Centre is in Beveridge Arcade, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4EH, phone 0300 026 6466.

Greenfield Students Enjoy 'Mathsplosion'

Students from Greenfield Community College have engaged in an innovative maths-based event aimed at raising the number of students achieving A or A* grade GCSE mathematics qualifications as part of the Advanced Maths Support Programme.

Mathsplosion, held at Durham Sixth Form Centre, is aimed at Year 9 and 10 students to help achieve excellence in mathematics through challenges, games, puzzles and teamwork. The group of students from Greenfield Community College took part in workshops around problem solving, using A Level maths content including imaginary numbers, graph theory, platonic solids and magic squares.

Mrs Middleton, Director of Improvement in Maths at Greenfield Community College, was delighted with the performance of students, "we had a really interesting day and I was exceptionally proud of our students who really engaged with all aspects of the day and were a credit to themselves and to our school", said Mrs Middleton.

Mathsplosion is organised in partnership in Access to Further Mathematics who invite students and schools to participate and take advantage of learning opportunities.

Greenfield Community College are committed to offering extended learning opportunities to support learning and enable students to reach their full potential.



Do You Have a Facial Disfigurement?

Tern TV are working on a new series featuring one of the UK's leading cosmetic and aesthetic practitioners, Dr Tijon Esho. The aim of the series is to help people who suffer from a facial disfigurement to look and feel their very best. Dr Esho is at the forefront of pioneering aesthetic treatments which can produce real results – treatments which are not readily available on the NHS. As well as a clinic in London, Dr Esho has a clinic in Newcastle so we are looking for people in the North East to take part. We will be featuring a varied range of stories in each programme and are keen to hear from people with serious and extreme conditions who feel they have been unable to find help elsewhere. Things we may be able to help with include Skin Conditions such as Rosacea, Eczema, Psoriasis, Skin Tags, Perioral Dermatitis, Melasma, Excess Facial Hair, Topical Steroid Withdrawal, Skin Damage like chickenpox divots, surgery scars and trauma scars from animal bites or attacks; Bungled Cosmetic Procedures such as botched Laser and Microblading treatments, lumpy lip and facial fillers. We can only accept applications from people over the age of 18. Interested? Get in touch with the casting team by emailing face@terntv.com or can call us on 07984 011 587.

Developing Projects in South Africa



On Saturday 29th February, local wildlife and pet portrait artist Joanna Boulwood from JLB Arts, attended a fundraising event for three young ladies raising money for the project gateway.

The organisation was set up in 1992 in the Pietermaritzburg area of South Africa to develop projects, provide food, clothing, care, education and a sense of empowerment in the poorest of areas.

Giving back a sense of life, the three girls, Hannah Beck, Sophie Walsh and Eleanor Ferguson, with help

from family and friends, organised the 80's themed fun night. Many people attended in 80's theme costumes and much fun was had.

JLB Arts auctioned a portrait commission to help raise much needed funds. The winner was Sharon who was delighted to have won and is looking forward to having her dog commissioned and drawn in April. The total raised on the night was £1,191 which will go a long way in helping.

Joanna Boulwood
JLB-Arts 07772 827955

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Email: stephen@newtonpress.net

www.newtonpress.net

RUNNING CLUB NEWS



This past weekend was another weekend with storms and high winds with again some cross-country events being cancelled for health and safety reasons.

Despite the weather, on Saturday we still had three members achieving PB's at parkruns. At Shildon Ian Stothard achieved a parkrun for that course of 33.23.

Over at Sedgefield Sarah Gill achieved a PB of 27.24 and David Thompson achieved one of 29.45.

On Saturday evening one member, having travelled to Spain, took part in the Benidorm Half Marathon which was held at 6.30 that evening. Alex Lineton completed this race in 1.51.06.

On Sunday The Dalton Park 5k and 10k races were taking place. We had two members in each race both of which were run simultaneously and in strong winds. In the 5k Ian Stothard was first home for ARC in 31.53. He was followed by Sandra Rudd in 32.05.

In the 10k race, Richard Campbell was first home in 40.57 followed by David Stothard in 1.02.39.

Also on Sunday, a little further away, we had three members taking part in the Trafford 10k in Manchester. This again was run in very windy conditions. First home for ARC was John Surtees in 35.45 followed by Paul Dalton in 36.44 and Tracey Surtees in 41.34.

For anyone interested in joining the club, you can simply turn up at one of our sessions all of which start from the Oakleaf Complex in Newton Aycliffe. Monday night is beginners run at 6.30p.m., Tuesday is endurance/speed session from 7.00p.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.



Martin Atkinson to Visit Referees' Association Meeting

Premier League Referee Martin Atkinson will be the Guest Speaker at the Bishop Auckland Referees' Association this month.

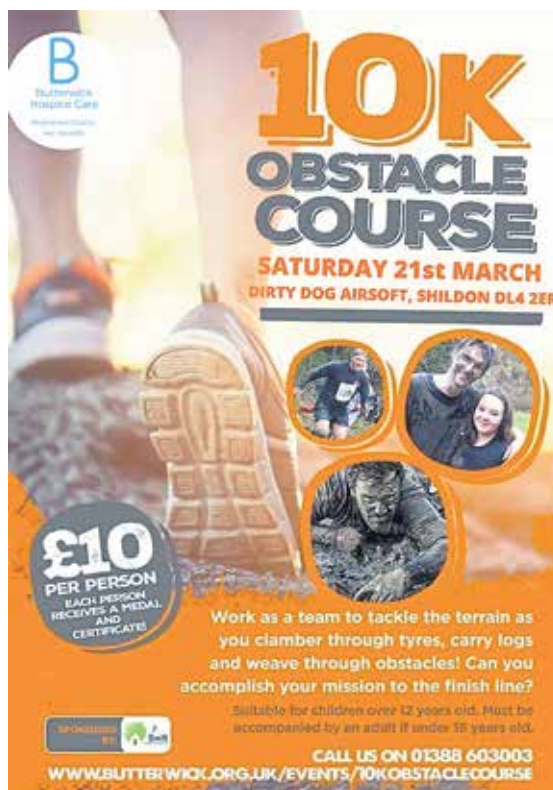
Martin, from West Yorkshire, has been a Premier League referee since 2004. He has officiated in over 350 Premier League matches and is a former FIFA Referee, taking part in the European Championships in 2012.

Martin will visit the Bishop Auckland Referees' Association meeting on Thursday the 19th of March 2020, which will take place at Bishop Auckland FC, Heritage Park, Bishop Auckland, starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome and food will be provided. Terry Farley MBE,



President of Bishop Auckland Referees' Association, said: "Martin is a vastly experienced referee, and we are delighted to welcome him back to Bishop Auckland as our guest speaker."

NEW VENUE FOR BUTTERWICK 10K OBSTACLE COURSE



Butterwick Hospice's annual 10k obstacle run is pleased to announce their NEW venue for this years event. The owners of Dirty Dog Air Soft site in Shildon, Bishop Auckland has very kindly offered the use of their site free of charge. This site is great for the event with tracks, woods, a 'container village', fields, hills, mud and water. And of course lots of challenges on the route.

Over 700 people took part last year and we hope to smash this again!

The event is only £10 per person and open to all. Please enter on our website at www.butterwick.org.uk/events/10kobstaclecourse/



RUGBY UPDATE

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club mourn the sad passing of one of their great club sponsors John Hilton, the face and stalwart behind the charity enterprise known as Honest John. The club would like to pass on sincere condolences to his family for their sad loss. John had the kindest and most generous heart in supporting lots of sports clubs and hundreds of local organisations and charities over the years and will be very much missed by the community in Newton Aycliffe. RIP John.

Following that sad note, Aycliffe have suffered in other ways in recent weeks hence news has been scarce over the previous three weeks. With various storms creating depressing irrisuous situations at Moore Lane and other clubs in the North East. Matches against Wallsend (twice) and Seaham both cancelled and put on the back burner to play later in the season. However, the bad weather has been holding back this week and the prediction of a game this Saturday hopefully will come to fruition. Aycliffe will play host to Seghill. This promises to be a great game as Aycliffe will be determined to do a lot better than when they lost at Seghill. Aycliffe welcome any rugby fans old and new to come and support at Moore Lane. The kick-off time on 7th March reverts to 3pm as we are now in the Springtime zone. This will be followed by the 6 Nations match between England and Wales which will be played on screens in Newton Aycliffe Sports Club bars. Kick off 4.45pm. There promises to be a great atmosphere for both matches so make sure you come down

to watch!

Prior to Aycliffe's home game the Rugby Club would like to remind parents of children between the ages of 8 and 16 that Kids Rugby is still on from 12pm to 1.30pm EVERY Saturday. This initiative is designed to give young boys and girls the chance to be introduced to rugby or improve on their game. Eventually the aim is to create junior club teams to play competitive matches against local clubs. Already coaches from Aycliffe have managed several taster and training sessions in local junior schools and the feedback is very encouraging with many of the children being enthusiastic about playing the great sport of rugby union. Who knows? There may be a potential Owen Farrell, Jamie George, Katie Daly-McLean or Tamara Taylor amongst them. For further enquiries about Kids Rugby please contact director of rugby Peter Ryan's mobile number 07796 172599.

The club is also keen to start up a ladies rugby team as soon as possible. Many clubs in the North East have recently established a ladies team and it's becoming one of the fastest growing team sports venture in the UK. If anybody is interested in volunteering to help organise this initiative, please message Public Relations Officer, Stuart McLean 07812 372675. The club is keen to hear from any potential volunteers, coaches and players for all sectors, Kids Rugby, Ladies Rugby and Senior Men's to join our family friendly club that has enjoyed grassroots rugby since its formation in 1959. Everyone will be made most welcome.

TELEPHONE BOX REMOVAL

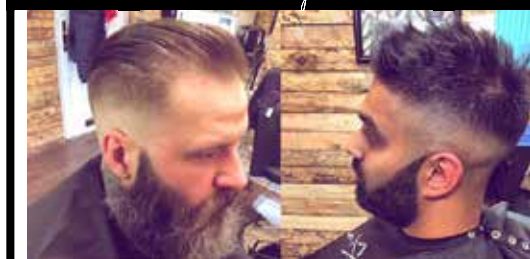
WHINLATTER PLACE

Reference No.
PRE90/20/00342

BT has identified a payphone in Whinlatter Place to be removed and has asked Durham County Council to collate any comments regarding the matter and to relay these back to BT for consideration.

If you wish to object please state your reasons why. In order to be taken into account, any comments should be made in writing or to the e-mail planning@durham.gov.uk by no later than 9th March 2020.

EST 2015
EMRES
BARBERSHOP
— Vintage —



THE SHOP WILL BE CLOSED
from Tuesday 31st March
and will re-open on
Friday 10th April

OPENING TIMES

Monday: 9am - 5pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 9am - 6pm
Thursday 8.30am - 6pm
Friday: 8am - 7pm
Saturday: 8am - 4pm

Unit 1 Blue Bridge Centre
Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS
Mobile: 07738 066 723

f FACEBOOK

Music Society 2020 Season STAY CORONA FREE

Bishop Auckland Music Society is delighted to announce its 2020 season which begins on Friday, 3rd April when Katherine Bryer (oboe) and Irena Radic (piano) perform a concert which includes works by Schumann, Rachmaninov and Poulenc amongst others. Commemorate V.E. Day on Friday, 8th May with Trio Anima (harp, flute and viola) in a concert which celebrates work by Debussy, Faure and Telemann. Make a diary note for Friday, 12th June when acclaimed pianist, Joseph Haviat, makes a return visit in a solo recital using the Steinway grand piano which delights players and listeners alike, Jamal Alijev (cello) made

his debut with the BBC Scottish Orchestra last year and, together with pianist Maksim Stsura, Jamal will perform work by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Franck on Friday, 17th July. The series culminates on Friday, 4th September with The Meraki Duo – Meera Maharaj (flute) and James Girling (guitar) – who both studied at the Royal College of Music, sharing a passion which extends to jazz, Latin American and European, plus works by contemporary composers. All concerts begin at 7.30pm and take place in Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, (DL14 6EN), opposite the General Hospital on Cockton Hill Road.

Individual concert tickets are available from Brotherton's Music or from Brian Varley (01388) 606075, priced at £14 in advance or £15.50 on the door. Why not purchase a Season Ticket which offers roughly 5 concerts for the price of 4, at the bargain price of £58? Ring Brian Varley for further details.

There's a virus spreading from land to land,
And we must all carefully wash our hands,
Sing "happy birthday twice" as you do,
And those germs should not get through!
Be careful touching handles and rails,
And please remember to scrub your nails.
Elbow bumping not hugs and kisses,
Could mean that you the virus misses,
So do your best and bin your tissues.
Avoid touching your nose and eyes,
And tell your friends to do likewise,
Follow these guidelines carefully,
In order to stay Corona free.

MMK 2020



Forgiveness requires great strength. It's not for the fainthearted or those who prefer to hang on to a victim status. What many people don't understand about forgiveness is it's never about the other person, it's always about how much you love yourself. Forgiveness is the key to freedom for you, not the person you need to forgive.

Forgiveness isn't about negating the persons responsibility for their actions, neither is it about saying what they did was acceptable or letting them off with anything. Some people refuse to forgive because they feel they would lose the right to be angry, to hate or punish the other person. They want to hang on to the hatred and dislike as long as they can, but what they don't realise is they are sentencing themselves as much as the person they want to punish. Negative emotions can become toxic if we fail to acknowledge them for what

they are and do what we have to, to process them in order to defuse their power to damage our health and well being. The only person to suffer directly from toxic emotions is the person who chooses to hang on to them and encourage them to fester by revisiting the events that helped create them in the first place.

If we take a moment to think about the people who we need to forgive, at best they were thoughtless and inconsiderate. At worst, totally selfish and uncaring. If, they are the latter then its safe to say they didn't care when they caused the damage in the first place, and will care even less when time has erased it from their memory.

If they are as undeserving as you think, they will get a perverse pleasure out of knowing they have caused lasting damage, and are able to inflict mental and emotional pain through the power of your own thoughts.

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Mini Missionaries Recognised



A group of 17 children aged 8-13 from the Church of England Diocese of Durham Children's Council has been awarded £6,800 by the AllChurches Trust. The award is for a project titled 'Homegrown' in which they will become 'Mini Missionaries' sharing their faith and the love of God with other children and young people across the region.

The 18-month project has the potential to reach out to thousands of children and families in communities across the Diocese. It is hoped that the project will further empower the children to take charge of the planning and preparation of mission events in their own home churches and to run the events themselves with support from others. The first event will be a silent disco followed by a family fun event in the summer. Sharon Pritchard, Children's Ministry Adviser for the Diocese of Durham, said: "Homegrown is a child-led project which will create events and activities for children, young people and families to share God's love

in the communities we live in.

"Their eagerness to share God's love within their own communities is inspiring and we hope 'Homegrown' will be a blessing to all who are involved."

One of the children's council members said: "We know that there are many children and families in our communities who may not have had the opportunity to hear about how much God loves them so we want to run different events in our own churches and communities where we can have fun, share food, get to know people and share our faith"

Another added: "We're really excited about bringing people together and it's going to be fun telling them about our amazing God!" Sharon concluded by saying: "I am hugely grateful for the support that AllChurchesTrust have given us with this project, the funding will allow the Children's Council to engage in mission events in their home churches, and to bring the love of Jesus to their own communities."

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Looking to discover a new direction for the new decade? Take time to learn a new skill in the interactive LIVE Lounge, where there's everything from leading interior experts helping you to revamp a much-loved piece of furniture, to fabulous florists. Alternatively, learn the art of calligraphy or plant pot macramé. In Living North LIVE's Chef Demo

Kitchen you can learn from Yorkshire's leading chefs, including Steph Moon, Neil Bentinck and Andrew Dixon, sample their food and take away some top tips to help you shine in your own kitchen.

The weekend includes Mother's Day, so make a real day of it and treat your Mum. Take time out in the Rosé Garden, enjoy a special Mother's Day Sunday Lunch or a delicious afternoon tea (bookable in advance). There are several restaurants and bars on-site offering a wide range of options for food and drink, so however you want to spend your day and wherever you want to soak up the atmosphere as you spend a little time in between shopping, there are plenty of places to choose from.

Homes & Interiors
Meet the designers and retailers – plus lots of local experts – all waiting to help you turn your house into the home you've always wanted.

Shopping & Gifts
Living North LIVE is a shopper's dream with everything from fashion and beauty to unusual gifts and unique crafts. With plenty of items handmade in

Yorkshire, you can meet the makers and discover those special pieces you simply can't find anywhere else.

Food & Drink

Our renowned Food Hall returns and our fabulous food producers will be on hand with a vast range of artisan produce, from Scotch eggs and handmade pastries to specialist cheese, delicious puddings and of course artisan spirits. Meet the foodies, find new produce and discover some of the best local producers in Yorkshire.

The Great Outdoors

Meet the gardening experts, pick up specimen trees and learn how to grow every herb you've ever heard of (and some you haven't).

Live Lounge

Our exciting, interactive LIVE Lounge is where you can learn a new skill for the new decade. From macramé to calligraphy, and up-cycling to wire work, there's plenty of fun to be had, and much to discover.

Chef's Kitchen

Our Chef's Kitchen returns to showcase some of Yorkshire's favourite chefs, who will share their top tips and tricks to help you shine in your own kitchen.

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Dogs Trust is Top Dog for Foster Homes

Dogs Trust's Home From Home fostering programme in Darlington had its best year ever in 2019; after providing 167 dogs with temporary foster homes while they waited on permanent owners coming forward. This number is around 15% more than the previous year, which totalled 144 dogs in 2018.

Despite the programme going from strength-to-strength, the team are on the lookout for potential foster carers to come forward, who don't currently have any pets.

Sue Embleton, Rehoming Centre Manager at Dogs Trust Darlington, said

"We are so grateful to all our foster carers as they really do change the lives of rescue dogs for the better. Many of our existing foster carers already have other pets, which is great for socialising some of our canine residents; however, we have others who could use some time in foster care and would prefer to be the only pet in the home."

"Some dogs much prefer the company of humans to other dogs or pets, or require a calm and quiet setting; so as well as appealing for more foster carers to come forward



generally, we would also like to hear from potential carers who don't have any other pets."

Sue continued: "Foster carers really do make a difference because not only do they give dogs the chance to be part of a family again but the information they learn about their foster dog goes a long way to helping us find them the perfect home. Last year the number of foster dogs that were rehomed permanently, after spending time in foster care, was 110, which is the highest it has ever been."

"Our foster carers do an amazing job and often take dogs into their care at very short notice. Without this

network of carers, we would be unable to help as many dogs in need."

As well as there being many rewards to both foster carer and dog, every time the Darlington rehoming centre can place a dog into foster care, more kennel space becomes available so they can take in even more rescue dogs. In 2019 each day 19 kennel spaces were saved thanks to the Home From Home programme, giving more dogs the chance to find their forever home.

Dogs placed into foster care come in all shapes, sizes, ages and breeds including puppies, golden oldies and those that really need a little extra TLC. The ongoing rebuild of the rehoming centre has led to a temporary reduction in kennel space, however the demand for dogs needing to come into the centre's care has remained high.

The Home from Home fostering programme was developed to give dog lovers, who are not in a position to adopt on a permanent basis, the opportunity to experience the rewards of dog ownership on a temporary basis and help rescue dogs experience life in a home environment. All foster families receive full support and advice regarding the dog in their care.

If you live within 45 minutes' drive of Dogs Trust Darlington, have your own transport and are home for the majority of the day, please visit the Dogs Trust website for more information on fostering or contact the team on 01325638143 or email hfh@darlington.dogstrust.org.uk

Hippodrome Panto Tickets Now Available

Tickets for Cinderella, this year's spectacular festive family pantomime at Darlington Hippodrome, will go on sale at 10am on Tuesday 10 March.

You shall go to the ball this Christmas with the spectacular family pantomime Cinderella at Darlington Hippodrome. Packed with all of the traditional pantomime ingredients audiences expect, Cinderella features laugh out loud comedy, stunning scenery, beautiful costumes and plenty of boos and hisses.

Join Cinders as she goes

from rags to riches, outwits her ugly sisters with help from her best friend Buttons and meets her dashing Prince. This Christmas bring your family to the most magical of all pantomimes where you can make festive memories as precious as a glass slipper - but you won't have to wait until midnight to buy your tickets as they go on sale at 10am on Tuesday 10 March. Cinderella will be produced by Qdos Entertainment, the world's biggest pantomime producer, and the team behind Darlington's annual pantomime, who guarantee

another must-see production packed with audience participation, sensational music and dancing, jaw-dropping special effects and fantastic festive entertainment suitable for all ages. Star casting to be announced soon!

Cinderella runs at

Darlington Hippodrome from Saturday 5 December 2020 to Sunday 3 January 2021. For full details and to book visit www.darlingtonhippodrome.co.uk or call 01325 405405.

Acknowledgement

Hazel Hatser

Wendy, Joy-Marie and family would like to thank everyone who attended the recent funeral of their Mam, Hazel.

We would like to thank friends, neighbours and customers for all the cards, flowers and kind words about our Mam.

A heartfelt thank you to David Blair and Funeral Director Bryan Shepherd, "True Friends".

Thank you to Aycliffe Care Home. Mam was looked after so well, especially in the final week of her life.

The collection from the church and The County totalled £355.30, which will be donated to Aycliffe Village Hall.

Congratulations

Lucy Thompson



Happy 18th Birthday
12th March 2020

Love you so much.

Mam and Steve

Happy 18th Birthday
12th March 2020

Love from all the family

Happy 18th Birthday
12th March 2020

To my gorgeous girlfriend.

Love, Mitchell

Obituary

Louise Jane McAnaney (nee Dent)



Aged 54, passed away peacefully on 24th February.

Deeply loved Wife of Brian; much loved Daughter of John and Christine; dearly loved Sister and Sister-in-Law of Anthony and Helen; loving Stepmother and Grandma; Niece and Cousin; Aunt and Great Aunt.

Sadly missed by family and friends.

Funeral on Friday 13th March at 11.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium. Followed at 12.30pm by a Service to celebrate Louise's life at Xcel Church, Long Tens Way. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to Xcel Local.

Rhoda Pattison

Passed away peacefully on 24th February 2020 at Yohden Hall Care Complex, Blackhall, formerly of Bluebell Close, Newton Aycliffe. Much loved Mam of the late Val and Nigel; Son Graham, Daughter Adrienne, Daughter-in-Law Kay; Grandchildren and Great Children.

Funeral on Monday 9th March at Durham Crematorium at 11.00am.

In Memoriam

Gladys Harbottle

Died 7th March 2013

A dear Mother who is in our thoughts and missed every day. Your smiles, laughter and lovely poems will always live on in our memories. Vera, Lavinia and Andy xxxx

Derick Young

2nd March 2005

Missing your chirpy ways today and everyday. Love David, Louise, Thomas, Joseph and Stan xxxxx

Margaret Rose Thompson

7th March 2002

Deep in the heart lies a picture, of a loved one laid to rest. In Memories frame we keep it, because she was one of the best. Forever in our hearts, Love your family xx

John Mulley

11th March 2019

Sweet is your memory, deep in my heart you will always remain. Love, Wife Joyce and family xxxxxx

Maureen Holland

11th March 2018



Maureen, I can't believe it is two years since you left us all so suddenly. The hurt is still felt so deeply, as if it happened only yesterday. I still expect you to walk back in the house and shout "I'm Home". I miss holding your hand, miss seeing you smile and hearing your laughter, we all do.

All we have now are our cherished memories of happier times and these will last forever.

Love from Nick, Chris, Richard, Gemma, Megan, Lily and all family and friends.

You will never be forgotten xxxxxxxxxx

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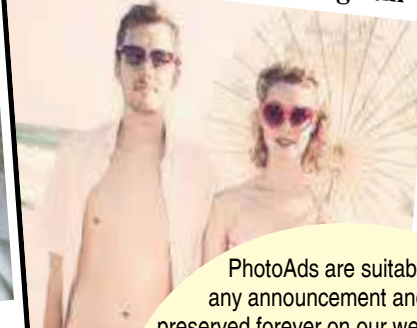
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10-10-10

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

Bonny and Clyde Cunningham



Golden

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N.A.F.C. REPORT

Newton Aycliffe produced a stunning display in blustery conditions at The Wanted Stadium as they ran out 4-0 winners over neighbours West Auckland, writes Joe Ramage.

Adam Burnicle scored his fifth goal in as many games before Liam Jarvie and Andre-Vasile Ardelean completed the rout as Aycliffe moved up to fifth in the table.

The visitors, who might have added to their lead but for some wayward finishing, will be hopeful that injuries to Burnicle and full back Lewis Walton won't be as bad as first feared on an otherwise pleasing afternoon for Colin Stromsoy's men.

After a frustrating stalemate at Newcastle Benfield on Wednesday night, Aycliffe were on the road again as they made the short jaunt along the A68 to 'The home of the first World Cup' to take on a West Auckland side boasting one of the strongest home records in the Ebac Northern League Division One.

Stromsoy made one change to the starting line-up with Alex Barnes replacing Ethan Wood in midfield but it was the lively Jarvie who should have given his side the lead inside 10 minutes after he latched on to a long ball from Aaron Brown.

Jarvie evaded the high line set by former Aycliffe man, Dan Mitton, and raced clear on goal only to fire his effort into the side netting of Tom Flynn's near post.

But they didn't have to wait much longer to make the breakthrough as Jarvie picked up the ball between the lines of the West midfield and defence. The blue shirts swarmed forward, outnumbering those in yellow, and Jarvie played a delicate reverse ball through to Burnicle who wrestled off Liam Hegarty and poked the ball beyond Flynn.

Stromsoy, his arms clasped around his tactics sheets, continued to bark out orders



West Auckland 0 v Newton Aycliffe 4

Aycliffe up to Fifth After Emphatic Win

to his men as the home side looked to make a quick response.

Adam Mitchell was the first to test Adam Pickford in the Aycliffe goal with his left footed strike from distance as West began to gain a foothold in the game.

Marshallled on by Mitton, the home side began dominating possession, stretching the Aycliffe backline and forcing some excellent defending from skipper, Brown, who continued to head away anything and everything in his way.

Alex Francis might have done better from a freekick on the edge of the area after Connor Phelan brought down former Sunderland man David Dowson, but his effort curled wide.

Pickford was almost found wanting as he misjudged a bounce and was scrambling some way out of his goal but West failed to make the most of the empty net as Aycliffe gathered bodies on the line before clearing.

The Aycliffe number one redeemed himself moments later however as he produced a stunning stop to deny an unmarked Francis from 12 yards whose shot bobbed before being clawed away by the full stretch Pickford.

As West were beginning to turn the screw in search of an equaliser, it was Burnicle who almost doubled his account a minute later when

Jarvie again released the striker through on goal. Burnicle opted to go for the near post on this occasion but his effort came back off the woodwork and out for a goal kick.

An end to end contest was brought to a halt in the 40th minute when Walton was brought down with a cynical challenge by Mitchell just inside the West half as Walton was made to hobble off replaced by Nick Green.

But Aycliffe were rewarded from the resulting freekick as Jarvie latched on to a poor clearance on the edge of the area to fire goalwards. His shot took a wicked deflection, wrong footing Flynn, and nestled in the bottom corner to double Aycliffe's advantage.

Burnicle should have made it three a minute before the interval from another Jarvie pass, but his two attempts at goal were parried away eventually for a corner.

Marc Costello almost scored from the corner which was worked short before being sent in by Phelan. Costello rose above everyone in the area to fire his header at goal but straight at Flynn.

Despite having more of the possession West were fortunate to go in at the break only two behind, and they were thankful to their goalkeeper once more just a minute into the second half as Ardelean raced clear from a returned goal kick but Flynn thwarted the attacker with his feet.

Three minutes later and the game was over as a contest as Ardelean ran clear in almost a carbon copy of his chance moments earlier. This time the number 10 made no mistake as he expertly rolled the ball into the far corner of the net.

Johnson Ballan, who came on for the injured Burnicle at half time, nearly made it four after some intricate build-up from Jake Petijean and Barnes – typical of the way Stromsoy wants his side to play. Ballan's effort inside the area was again forced wide by Flynn.

Once again though, Aycliffe didn't have to wait long for a goal with Jarvie at the heart of it. A surging run down the right had West defenders in knots before he jinked inside of Lewis Dodds and put it on a plate for Ardelean to score his second of the game from close range.

Aycliffe were putting on

a show by this stage with West heads dropping and should have added a fifth when Kevin Carr capitalised on a mistimed header from Mitton, but the substitute opted for goal from a tight angle instead of giving Ardelean another tap-in.

Ballan might have had a penalty when barged over in the area five minutes from time before forcing another good save from Flynn with his strike from distance minutes later.

With the game nearing its end Leon Scott was perhaps fortunate to only see yellow for a lunge on Barnes – a challenge manager Stromsoy described as a "definite red card," in his post-match comments – as Aycliffe held onto a fifth clean sheet in six and another big win on the road.

Aycliffe take to the road again for visits to Penrith and Newcastle Benfield, before a home game against Bishop Auckland on Saturday 14th March (KO 3.00pm).

LOCAL HEROES

Dear Sir,

At a time when the environment is discussed on a global scale by world leaders and activists alike, I'd like to highlight something a little closer to home that I feel epitomises the attitude towards looking after our world that we all could learn from - two golden girls of Woodham, who have taken it upon themselves to clean up the area they live in for the community and wildlife who share it.

Denise and Maureen can be seen throughout the week with their council issued vests, blue bags and litter pickers clearing up the woodlands, walks and communal areas around The Huntsman and Woodham Community Centre.

Both Denise and Maureen are retired but still play an active, and invaluable, role within our community. Thank you both for the amazing work that you have done and continue to do in cleaning up Woodham.

Juniors Football Report

NAJFC would like to begin their round up this week by conveying their deepest sympathies to the family of John Hilton - 'Honest John' who sadly passed away last week. John's fantastic work made a massive positive impact on our community and has helped our club by the way of sponsorship and kind donations greatly over the years. Our current Under 10 squad are wearing strips this season kindly sponsored by John. A remarkable man who will be sadly missed by many. Rest in peace John.

As the weekend beckoned for junior football the high winds made an unwelcome appearance! We did however see all but one of our scheduled league games go ahead.

Saturday saw the return of the Russell Foster League for the U7 Whites and U8 Blacks who had taken a short break in fixtures. Our U7 Whites faced neighbours Shildon in the Infinite Air Cup. This young team are showing massive improvements on the pitch week on week. Goals from William, Oscar, Harry and two from Regan left them in very high spirits. Man of the match went to Regan.

U8 Blacks were back in league action and, despite high winds and the odd snow shower, put in a very solid performance with two goals each from Charlie and Max. Man of the match was awarded to Mathis for an excellent performance and great passing.

U8 Juniors travelled to Boro Rangers Blues to continue their spring league TJFA campaign. Goals this week came from Joel, Jack and Mason.

U9's played host to Leven Juniors. The juniors only goal from the game came from Archie who also earned man of the match.

U10's were without a league game this week so took the opportunity to travel to Seaton Utd for a 9v9 friendly in preparation for next season. Goals came from Liam, Zeke, Jack, and two from Jack J. A great performance and challenge for the U10's, with man of the match going to Jack J.

U11 Clarets were host to Whitby in the quarter final of the TJFA Challenge Cup.



In what was a very close, tightly contested game with goals from Kai and Ashton, the Clarets unfortunately saw their cup run come to an end. As always this team gave 100% and took the positives from their game. They were praised on their performance by their opponents, who also picked their man of the match, Lewis, for his strong defensive performance.

U11 Whites travelled to Eaglescliffe Elementis to continue their league campaign. The wind played havoc throughout the game but the juniors still managed to find the back of the net with two goals from Ethan and one from Jake after a fantastic solo run. Another fantastic result for our U11's with man of the match going to Jack for a gritty and determined performance.

U11 Blacks welcomed Russell Foster's Seaham in what proved to be a very tight game. Goals came from Jayden H, scoring two, and Alex. The juniors showed great sportsmanship in some trying conditions throughout. Man of the match was awarded to Keaton.

U12 Whites faced Darlington TSC at home and after a solid performance came away with the 3 points and a 5-2 win. Tyler and

Jayden both with two goals each and Niall also getting on the scoresheet. Man of the match was awarded to Jayden this week.

U12 Blacks made the journey to Middlesbrough to meet Riverside Juniors 'Whites'. In very poor conditions, and with a limited squad available, it was not to be the juniors day. Well done to Noah for some great saves, which earned him man of the match.

U13's were host to Blackwell Rangers. The juniors went behind by two goals early in the game but battled to level the score with two goals from Zak and went on to go 4-2 in front with goals from Alfie and Joe. They could not hold onto this lead with the score finishing in a 4-4 draw.

U15's welcomed Riverside Juniors and came away with a well earned 5-4 win. The juniors were determined as a team, with goals from Lewis, Georgie, Gregg, Charlie and Leon. Man of the match went jointly to Jack and George C for a great central defensive performance.

We hope for some finer (maybe even warmer) weather next week! Thanks to all that help us, support us and encourage our young junior players whatever the weather. #juniorsmarchon

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2nd ROUND FOR UNDER 16s

* FIRST PRIZE £100 CASH *

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Available from Newton Press or via Greenfield College Reception

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

To book your place email:
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We require your: name, address, contact number,
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brief description of the act you will perform.

Entrants must be 16 years of age or under.

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