



Ferryhill veteran George Miller featured in RBL magazine

Ferryhill resident and decorated World War Two veteran, George Miller, recently revealed some of his war experiences to the Royal British Legion monthly magazine. He spoke about joining the Gordon Highlanders, serving on the biggest ship he was ever to serve during the Second World War, and his experiences in Malta and Gibraltar.

My first outfit was the Gordon Highlanders: I joined in 1938, aged 16.

But a year later, I transferred to the Maritime Royal Artillery.

My mate John Morgan and I were posted together a few times as Private Gunners on various merchant vessels, operating Lewis guns; at the end of July 1942, we were posted to the Clyde, to SS *Ohio*, an ex-American tanker and the biggest ship I was ever to serve during the war.

We were told we were to



George Miller, decorated World War Two veteran.

be part of a relief convoy to Malta with a large Navy escort.

I had sailed to Malta before, in through the Strait of

Gibraltar, out through the Suez Canal. It had gone well and the Maltese people were excellent; this trip was to turn out very different.

We were one of four teams stationed on deck, using Bren guns now, two fore, two aft, and very much left to our own devices.

I spoke to the captain regarding the gun set-up but he said we were the experts, not him - I don't think he could understand my broad Aberdonian accent.

We sailed out of the Clyde a week later, about fourteen merchantmen with a naval escort that grew bigger as we sailed south, including destroyers and an aircraft carrier: serious stuff!

With the other gunners, we lived on deck, eating and sleeping there and only going below to the ablutions.

It was pretty quiet down to Gibraltar and we entered the strait in pea-souper, but the next day when the fog cleared, all hell broke

Continued on page 5

Tenlands' staff to do Mayhem Challenge

Four staff members from Tenlands are raising money for their residents' comfort fund by doing the Muddy Mayhem Challenge on Sunday 2nd October.

This is an annual challenge at Hardwick Park, near Sedgefield.

Muddy Mayhem is a popular event featuring everything from cargo nets to walls, tunnels, water and lots of other surprises.

This year promises a real test for everyone taking on the tough 5km or 10km courses.

Tenlands' Deputy Manager Andrea Green will be doing the challenge alongside two care staff members, Joanne

Walton and Victoria Stephenson, and chef, Nicola Howarth.

There will be plenty of spectators from Tenlands watching on the day.

Staff here have decided to put themselves through this so that residents can still enjoy entertainers coming into the home and receive birthday and Christmas presents.

All money raised will go directly into the comfort fund. If anyone wishes to sponsor, call Tenlands on 01740 657201.

A spokesperson said: "From all at Tenlands we would like to wish our staff the very best of luck."

Call for new scouts

In last week's issue of the *Chapter*, we mentioned that all scout sections have begun this September and can be enjoyed for just £10 per month (extra costs

apply for certain activities). If interested in signing up your child as a scout, call Malcolm Turnbull on 01388-815430 or email 1stferryhill@durhamscouts.org.uk.

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Classifieds

All about local people ...



In Memoriam

Rebecca Lucy Whittle
Becca



10.11.98 - 12.09.14



Two years since you sadly gained your wings to be in Heaven with Gran. As a family chain, we are broken and can never be fixed until we are all together again. Our love for you remains ever strong. We love and miss you always. Our Angel
*Love forever,
Mam & Dad
Michael, James & Lauren*



Rebecca Lucy Whittle

10.11.98 - 12.09.14

In loving memory of our precious Granddaughter whom we lost suddenly two years ago. You may be gone from us Rebecca, but you will live on in our hearts and memories forever. We love you. We miss you every day pet



*Your ever-loving
Nana and Granda
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx*



Paul Nicholson

Miss you loads



*Lots of love,
Helen & Toddy*

*Remember our phone calls
xxxx
about a leather jacket*

In Memoriam

In loving memory
of my husband,
Paul Nicholson

Died 12 September 2015

You are always in our
hearts & thoughts
Miss you very much



*Your loving wife, Doris
& Craig & Paul xxx*

Birthdays

Dorothy Joyce

10-9-16

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Marlene, Les and all your
Shildon and Esh Winning
families xxx*

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Karen Simpson

6th September

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every single day
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proud to welcome her first
beautiful granddaughter
into the world (Born 5th
July), Rowan.



*Forever in our thoughts,
Mam, Dad & all the family*

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about a Classified?**

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Amy Tinkler welcomed home with open top bus parade



Olympic bronze medallist, Amy Tinkler, saluted the crowd in Bishop Auckland's Market Place as the public welcome her home from Rio.

Photo: Durham County Council

County Durham's bronze medal-winning Olympian Amy Tinkler was officially welcomed home on Saturday 3rd September with an open-top bus parade.

The 16-year-old was joined by friends and family on a journey from her home in Bishop Auckland, through the town centre and across to Spennymoor, where a red-carpet celebration party awaited.

Durham County Council's cabinet member for leisure, libraries and lifelong learning, Maria Plews, said: "It was a great pleasure and an honour to welcome Amy back to Spennymoor Leisure Centre, which has been her sporting home since she was two years old.

"The council is proud to support South Durham Gymnastics Club and we hope that Amy's success will not only be the memory of a lifetime for this talented teenager, but provide the inspiration for a generation of young people to take up a sport or strive to reach their own personal goals, whatever they may be."

Along the route of the parade Amy stopped off at Bishop Auckland Town Hall and Spennymoor Town Show.

Mayor of Bishop Auckland Town Council, Cllr Ann Golightly, who welcomed the gymnast to the balcony of the Town Hall, said: "We are so proud of Amy and we wanted to offer as many local people a

chance to show her how much they loved watching a young girl from their home town succeed in the Olympics.

"We encouraged members of the public to come along and take photos of this special moment from the Market Place."

Bishop FM was also at the Market Place - which was be temporarily closed to traffic - to provide entertainment and a count-down to the arrival of the Olympic medallist, which was set to be at around midday.

From Bishop Auckland, the open topped bus passed through Byers Green, Middlestone Moor, Kirk Merington, stopped off at Spennymoor Town Show and then headed across to Spennymoor Leisure Centre, via Tudhoe Green. At the time, Cllr Ian Geldard, the leader of Spennymoor Town Council, said: "Winning an Olympic medal is such a huge achievement, even more so for someone as young as Amy.

"There has been a real buzz from the people of Spennymoor, knowing that she trained right here on their doorsteps.

"She is an inspiration and an example to the young people from this area that if you work hard you can achieve your dreams.

"It will be an honour and a privilege to welcome Amy in Spennymoor on her open-top bus tour this weekend."

Spennymoor Town Council

encouraged local people to deck their homes and businesses in red, white and blue, and line the streets to wave to Amy as she passed on her Olympic homecoming ride.

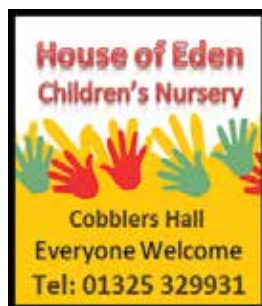
Once back at the leisure centre - which is home to South Durham Gymnastics, where much of her Olympic training took place - Durham County Council arranged for a red-carpet welcome.

Amy had the opportunity to increased her medal haul by being awarded the highest honour in County Durham.

The 16-year-old Rio 2016 star, and coaches Nicola Preston and Rachael Wright, were given Chairman's Medals by Durham County Council at a civic reception following the open top bus parade through Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor.

For more information about the Chairman's Medal and this year's other recipients visit www.durham.gov.uk/chairmansmedal.

Full details of Amy's homecoming tour can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/amytinkler.



Damage to vehicles in Church Lane

Between Monday 29th August and Tuesday 30th August, unknown persons caused damage to vehicles in the Church Lane area of Ferryhill. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the offenders, however, if any person has information about this crime, contact Ferryhill Neighbourhood Police Team 101 (ext. 74 4721) or Crimestoppers 0800 555111.

St Luke's Friday Lunch Menus

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Teacher filmed threatening pupil

The Woodlands pupil referral unit in Ferryhill has been investigated by Durham County Council after footage was leaked showing a teacher exhibiting threatening behaviour towards a pupil.

Footage, filmed by a fourteen-year-old student at the unit in April 2016, depicted a teacher swearing at the pupil as well as a staff member seemingly boasting about the best way to sell drugs. The footage has sparked concerns over safeguarding, with a child psychiatrist from the North East summarising the contents of the film as "inappropriate behaviour from staff". However, after reviewing the footage, Durham Police concluded that there was no criminal activity or breaches of safeguarding. Staff conduct at the council-run referral unit, which is for children who have been excluded or are at risk of permanent exclusion from school, has raised concerns in the past.

It was known then as Broom Cottages Pupil Referral Unit and thirteen staff members faced suspension after allegations surfaced around the use of force towards pupils. A council-led investigation was held but nobody was prosecuted.

After the footage was viewed, Caroline O'Neill, Head of Education at Durham County Council had this to say: "We have extremely high standards and are clear with all staff on what is expected. We operate rigorous training programmes and robust guidance.

"The environment many staff work in can be extremely challenging and they can be put under great pressure but our expectation is that professional standards are maintained at all times.

"If any staff fall below these standards there is a proper process to follow and where necessary action is taken, as has been the case in this instance.

"The police have confirmed there is no case to answer and while we can't comment in detail on individuals, the public can be assured that after viewing the footage a number of actions were taken to re-enforce the high standards that are expected of employees.

"As a council, we will continue to uphold these high standards and seek the very best for all pupils at this school and do our utmost to ensure all pupils enjoy a safe and enjoyable education. We are assured by Durham Constabulary that no safeguarding concerns were raised as a result of the tapes and that clear appropriate internal actions were taken."

The family of the fourteen-year old pupil has referred their concerns to teaching regulators, the National College for Teaching and Leadership, who will make a decision about whether any of the staff members involved should face a hearing for serious misconduct.

Ofsted is also due to publish a report on standards at the unit in the next few weeks after conducting a routine inspection in June.

Ferryhill charities could be eligible for grants up to £10,000



The Henry Smith Charity give grants to organisations and charities throughout the UK for initiatives and projects that address social inequality and economic disadvantage.

Charities in Ferryhill that qualify for the Henry Smith Charity North East Grants Fund can apply to secure between £3,000 and £10,000.

The fund will support projects that benefit communities experiencing social and/or economic disadvantage and those that tackle problems in areas of high deprivation in North East England.

Applicants must be registered charities with two years of accounts, and need to have an income under £250,000 per annum.

Charities that are already in receipt of a grant from Henry Smith Charity and/or the Henry Smith Charity North East Grants Fund are not eligible to apply.

Applications for this grant can be completed at the Henry Smith Charity website.

As well as the completed application, Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland requires a copy of a bank

statement, latest annual accounts (showing two years of income and expenditure), constitution or set of rules, Child Protection Policy or Vulnerable Adult Policy (if applicable), copies of written estimates or catalogue pages if charities want a grant for equipment or capital items.

For more information about the application and where to send it to, visit henrysmithcharity.org.uk.

SUPPORT FOR CARERS

A range of support services are provided for carers of all ages through local carer support organisations.

Services include advice and emotional or practical support.

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If you are under 18, contact Family Action "The Bridge" on 0191 383 2520

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George Miller featured in this month's RBL magazine



At the end of July 1942, George was posted to the Clyde, to SS Ohio, an ex-American tanker and the biggest ship he was ever to serve during the war.

From page 1

loose: German and Italian planes just kept coming at us in waves. The sirens would wail; helmets on and man the guns, time and time again. I know we hit at least one German plane and maybe another.

On deck it was chaos at times. The *Ohio* kept getting hit, with shrapnel flying everywhere. Some of the merchant crew would run on deck and fire rifles at the planes; hard words were exchanged between us. The planes didn't go away at night, especially as we approached the Italian island of Pantelleria: the only good thing was that they had night lights to shoot at.

We knew there were submarines around too; they had haunted us for the last two years in the Marine. You never saw them, just heard the explosion. We also knew the Navy boys were taking a hell of a hammering, and the aircraft carrier had gone down with the loss of a lot of brave boys, but nobody told us any detail. As time went on, we took more hits and slowed right down, although we never left the decks and just kept on firing. Eventually, two Navy destroyers came alongside and started to throw ropes and chains on board. We didn't really know what

was going on but they start to tow us to Malta. Some guys said we were sinking; I was not sure but we had been badly hit in the middle.

As we neared Malta, the attacks kept coming, but we got some support from the island's Spitfires. In some ways, it just added to the confusion in terms of what you were shooting at. When we eventually got to Malta, they kept us outside the harbour for about two hours, before towing us in with tugs. The *Ohio* had taken a terrible beating and a lot of the fleet just hadn't made it.

Somehow John and I were okay. We left our guns on board and they took us off to billet in the town. The people couldn't have been friendlier; they gave us anything they had, although we knew they were really struggling with no food or fuel. I don't really know what happened to the rest of the lads, but we were there only a few

days before they took us on a merchant ship back to England, and eventually to barracks in North Shields. It wasn't long before we were back on deck as gunners, mainly around UK waters. It was still dangerous, but nothing compared to *Ohio* - I think God was on my side on that trip! It was around a year later that I joined the Royal British Legion, though I didn't take an active role until 1949, when I moved to Durham and joined the Ferryhill Station Committee. Eventually, I became Chairman and Branch Secretary, roles I still hold to this day, and, as always, I'll be helping organise this year's Poppy Appeal.

This article first appeared in this month's British Legion magazine. George Miller was interviewed by GERALD SLACK, Vice Chairman of the Ferryhill Station Branch of the Royal British Legion, who also wrote the article.

SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SUPPORT

Support and advice relating to all kinds of sensory loss, including equipment to try, contacts for support groups, and help for people who want to return to work or start work can be arranged by phoning

03000 26 79 79

Or visiting www.durham.gov.uk/sensorysupportteam



The Police Interceptors are back!

The road policing cops of Cleveland and Durham were back on screen on Monday 5th September with a brand new series of 'Police Interceptors'.

The show, which is on Channel 5 at 8pm on Monday nights, follows the men and women of the Cleveland and Durham Specialist Operations Unit (CDSOU) as they respond to incidents including firearms operations, tackle dangerous drivers and catch those breaking the law. This will be the third series based in the North East and the 12-week run also includes two hard-hitting special editions presented by Oris Deley from *The Gadget Show*.

Camera crews from Raw Cut Productions accompanied the RPU (road policing unit) officers, and their colleagues from the dog section, over a three-month period earlier this year, to capture the action on the roads and estates of Durham and Cleveland. Along with footage from the

officers' body-worn videos and the cameras routinely deployed in every RPU car, the programme gives a unique insight into the fast-paced world of response policing. The show's third series kickstarted with a case in Bishop Auckland involving an alleged assault and missing crossbow, and a suspected drunk-driver who took to the rooftops in escape. More drama is expected in the subsequent episodes. Chief Insp Graham Milne from the CDSOU said: "We know the interceptors have many fans and they can rest assured the action doesn't let up in the new series," said Chief Insp Graham Milne from the CDSOU. From a policing point of view, we think it demonstrates the wide range of tasks our officers deal with and also the practical problems they often face." Fans of the show can follow the teams on Twitter at: @ClevelandRPU, @DurhamRPU, @DurhamPoliceK9, @ClevePol_Dogs, #PoliceInterceptors.

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Chilton Town Council

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*Members of the public are invited to participate in these meetings
**Members of the public may attend these meetings

Annual Leek, Flower and Vegetable Show

The Community Hub Leek Club will hold its 2016 Annual Leek, Flower and Vegetable show on Saturday 10th September in the Community Hub Cleves Ferry Suite. The show will be open to the public from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. In last year's show, there were over a 140 high

quality individual exhibits and a great night was had by all who attended. Traditional broth will be on sale and, in addition, there will be a prize raffle and a 'guess the weight of a giant cabbage' competition. A spokesperson said: "Please come along and support a long standing tradition."

A Fragile Future art exhibition

A new art exhibition is being held at Greenfield Arts and Community Centre in Newton Aycliffe, until the 21st September. The exhibition is called *A Fragile Future* and includes

paintings of coal mining, industrial, and ecological scenes. The art gallery in the Community Centre is open Monday to Thursday (10am-9pm) and Friday (10am-4pm).

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Charity and Youth Offending Service talk status dogs



Inspired by large numbers of unwanted bull breed dogs, Blue Cross's RespectaBULL workshops aim to teach youngsters to be responsible pet owners

Blue Cross and County Durham Youth Offending Service have teamed up in a new initiative to tackle the issues surrounding status dogs and young people, through the pet charity's RespectaBULL workshops. The workshops are organised by Blue Cross and the Youth Offending Service, a multi-agency partnership involving Durham County Council.

So far, they have run two workshops together, which aim to empower young people to care for their dog and build safer communities.

Helen Spicer, Blue Cross Education Officer, delivers

the workshops with the help of her Irish Wolfhound, Bramble. She explained: "There are preconceptions of both bull breed dogs - often associated with anti-social behaviour - and their owners. Working with the Youth Offending Service enables us to engage with young people, many of them dog owners, who might be at risk of offending. It's great to be able to reach this group of young people directly and hopefully make a difference both for them and their pets."

Inspired by large numbers of unwanted bull breed dogs like Staffordshire bull terriers, Blue Cross's Re-

spectaBULL workshops aim to reach young pet owners and potential owners with messages about how to care for their dogs and be responsible owners, to help dispel the negative image often surrounding them.

The sessions are aimed at 11 to 25-year-olds and use hard-hitting videos and case studies to stimulate discussion and debate on issues surrounding dog ownership. The Blue Cross education team reached over 68,000 children and young people last year. One young person who attended a session commented: "The talk was good and I learned a lot about the laws about keeping dogs, like they have to be chipped and what are banned breeds. It also made me think about what dogs need and how to care for them well. I liked that there was a dog as part of the course".

To find out more about Blue Cross education talks or to book your free RespectaBULL workshop, visit <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/respectabull>.

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WHAT IS TERRACLEAN?



TerraClean is the only patented de-carbonising treatment of its kind in the world. Originally developed by Canadian scientists this technology is now available in the UK for both petrol and diesel engines.

The process involves connecting your engine to a TerraClean machine that takes over as the fuel supply during the treatment. The engine is then run on the mix of highly refined fuel and solvent free cleaning agents that will not harm your engine or fuel system.

The process cleans the build up of tar and varnishes from the fuel injection system, these build up over time in any engine and affect the efficiency of injectors and therefore engine performance and fuel economy.

TerraClean is unlike any other carbon cleaning treatment or pour in the tank cleaning solution.

TerraClean continues to work after the combustion process has begun, when the fuel is burnt in the engine the gases produced help to safely remove carbon deposits from the combustion chamber and valve areas.

This cleaning process carries on through the exhaust side of the engine helping to keep

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Sport

Local leagues, competitions and events...



Gym enthusiasts rewarded with shopping spree



Left to Right: Lynne Brown from Freemans Quay Leisure Centre, George Jones from Abbey Leisure Centre and Patricia Bell from Chester-le-Street Leisure Centre.

Nine gym enthusiasts were rewarded for getting active thanks to a UEFA European Championship inspired competition which ran across Durham County Council leisure centres. Over 500 competitors worked up a sweat in gym sessions, group exercise classes and swimming to gain points and relied on their football team, chosen at random, to boost their total. Whoever finished top of the 'work out' league at each leisure centre won £50 worth of shopping vouchers. Kirk Walker, Physical Activities Co-ordinator, said: "The workout element

added an extra level of competitiveness and meant that even those who didn't pick out a great team could still have a chance of winning. "Members told us that the competition gave them an extra incentive to come in and exercise when maybe they wouldn't have, so the competition has definitely had an impact on visits. We hope to introduce more member challenges so keep an eye out for the next one." The sport related incentives continue for those motivated by Team GB's success in the Olympics as people can get active with free five visit passes as part of the council's latest

fitness campaign. Following the success of this offer during the Olympic Games, people are reminded that passes will be available again during the Paralympic games from Wednesday 7th September until Sunday 18th September. Those wanting to take advantage of this offer can attend one of the council's ten leisure centres to collect a pass, a free Thrive discount card and then begin working out for free. Visit www.durham.gov.uk/leisureoffers for more information or for a list of leisure centres, visit www.durham.gov.uk/leisurecentres.

Celtic fight back to secure derby draw

A sensational second half fight back was rewarded when Ferryhill Celtic clinched a last gasp draw against local rivals, Ferryhill Dynamos in the first Durham & District Sunday League derby match of the season. Celtic started the match brightly but found themselves two goals down with the opening 20 minutes. A goal in the 10th minute was followed by a penalty conversion by Andrew Agar on 20 minutes and when the Dynamos scored again just five minutes before the break to make it 3-0, it looked all over for Celtic. But the half time break brought with it a fresh determination and within five

minutes of the restart, Luke Thomson headed home to begin the comeback. It took until the 75th minute before Celtic found the net again, this time through Kevin Hodson and it was backs against the wall for the Dynamos. Celtic piled on the pressure but it looked like Dynamos would hold out until, with only two minutes left on the clock, Dan Mitton crashed home a 25 yard strike to square the game and reward Celtic's second half endeavour with a point. Celtic's next match is away to Houghton Chilton Lodge FC on Sunday 11th September. Fans wishing to travel should meet at 9am at the Dean and Chapter.

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