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Mick Sorby, Algy Hay, Jamie Boyle (author) and Phily Tobin

Book reveals the good, the bad and ugly bits!



By: Ian Monaghan

AN AUTHOR has written his second book about Hartlepool which he says tells “the good, the bad and the ugly of the town”.

Jamie Boyle’s new tome, “Hartlepool: Our Town”, takes a look at some of the well known characters and history of the town.

His first book, “Hartlepool Born and Bred”, proved popular and, through writing it, he became intrigued with how many interesting stories Hartlepool had to tell.

“I have fallen in love with Hartlepool. I think I’m an adopted monkey hanger,” said Jamie, who is from Middlesbrough. “This book is about the people of Hartlepool. It is the good, the bad and the ugly of Hartlepool.”

This book is a must-read for anyone who lives in Hartlepool. They might even be in it, or they’ll probably know someone who is in it.”

Jamie says that he was amazed about some of the characters and stories that he uncovered in researching the book.

He continued: “There’s a story about a bloke who honoured a bet to jump off the transporter bridge - and he lived! Then there was a man, who was sentenced to death in the Tower of London, but

managed to talk his way out of it and come back home.”

Jamie added: “It also includes some of the famous characters of the town including Battling Manners, Lawrence Martin and Josie Jenkins.”

The author says that he had so many stories he is now writing a third book and is also planning a fourth volume.

Jamie said: “Growing up in Middlesbrough, I never really realised the history and stories of Hartlepool. I couldn’t get them into one book so I thought I will have to write another one. The fourth one will feature the Darwins’ case but, in the meantime, I hope this book proves to be as successful as the first one.”

The new book follows on from his first one about the town, “Hartlepool Born and Bred”, which featured the stories of well-known Mick Sorby, who worked the doors of Hartlepool pubs for decades, and his old pals, Phily Tobin and Algy Hay.

“Hartlepool: Our Town” is published by War Cry Books and is available to order on Amazon.



Library success for author Garry

A WRITER, who battled long term mental health problems and depression to publish his first ever novel, “Yes Son” it is now on the shelf at his hometown library.

Garry Baker, above spent a year writing his fantasy-fiction novel, “Yes Son”, which was released by international publishers Austin MaCauley.

And the 53-year-old says he is delighted that his book is now available to borrow from Hartlepool Community Hub Central, the town’s main library.

Garry said: “To write the book and have it published is a childhood dream come true and now to have it in our library is great.”

Garry, who is a former pupil of High Tunstall School, got the idea for his book while volunteering at Kyle’s Dream, a non-profit community organisation which helps people build confidence and self-esteem through music, recording, photoshoots, instrument and vocal coaching.

He said: “It is set in the Cotswolds and Australia, which was challenging as I’ve never been to either. I’ve also written the screenplay of it too although it’s only my first book.”



Graeme Lee with Hartlepool businessman Bill Reid and the special wheel

Unique engraved ship’s wheel boost for Gemma

OUTGOING football boss Graeme Lee has received two “super special” items to auction to raise funds for his wife Gemma’s brave brain cancer battle.

Hartlepool Life previously reported how the couple had received a personally signed shirt from Manchester City and England star Jack Grealish to auction.

Now, they have also received a unique ship’s wheel engraved with the names of some of Hartlepool United’s best known players.

Graeme, Hartlepool United’s former manager and an U23 Head Coach with Middlesbrough, said: “We want to say a massive thank you to all involved for the care they have shown and helping the cause, it has been truly uplifting for us all.”

The items were acquired by BBC Radio Tees presenter Paul ‘Goffy’ Gough who has been helping to raise funds for Gemma and the Lee family with a charity function.

The ship’s wheel was donated by Cedric

Williams, of Marine Supplies, and engraved by Billy Reid, of First Class Shoe Repairs, both in Hartlepool.

Goffy said: “When we took delivery of the wheel, we just wanted to make it very special and unique for Gemma and Graeme to be able to auction at our function with them. I had a chat with another Pools fan Billy Reid and he kindly agreed to engrave the special memory plaques which he placed around the wheel.”

Billy has engraved the names of some of Pools best known players including Watty Moore, Joe Allon and Dimi Konstantopoulos in special plaques around the edge of the wheel.

Billy said: “It was lovely that Goffy, Cedric and myself, all based in Hartlepool, were able to combine to help Gemma and Graeme with something that will end up as being a very special item to someone and more importantly helping the very special Lee family in their difficult life challenges.”

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