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E.ON REVISE LAYOUT FOR ISLES WIND FARM

E.ON, one of the UK's leading renewable generators, will soon begin the second stage consultation process for its proposed Isles Wind Farm near Newton Aycliffe and is urging the local community to input into its plans.

The energy company has taken on board feedback that it received on the design of the wind farm from the first round of its consultation last year.

Originally the development was designed to feature up to 45 turbines and this has now been reduced by almost half to 24 turbines. This could still generate up to 63.5MW, enough electricity to power the domestic needs of around 35,000 homes - more than the population of Newton Aycliffe and Sedgfield combined.

Paul Hunt, Project Manager at E.ON, said: "The layout which we're proposing takes into consideration comments we've had on the visual, noise and environmental impact of the scheme and is an adaptation of one of the layouts we put forward last year.

"We're investing heavily in the region and believe this is a good site for a wind farm. Stage two consultation provides another opportunity for the local community to have their say and we'll be working hard over the coming months to reach out to residents to gather their feedback on the scheme.

"We're currently in the pre-application stage for this wind farm and want



The mock view from the A167 near Newton Aycliffe

to work with local people to put together the best possible design which will go forward for government approval next year."

The Government has set ambitious targets for renewable energy generation in the UK and development of onshore wind farms plays a very important part in providing a low carbon energy mix for the future. The Isles

Wind Farm, if consented, would be a vital step towards achieving those

continued Page 3

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Hitachi Will Make Aycliffe an Important Focal Point

The proposed £77m investment by Hitachi Rail Europe in a new train assembly plant will revitalise Newton Aycliffe writes a special correspondent.

The long-awaited completion of the agreement between the Department for Transport and Agility Trains, the consortium consisting of Hitachi and John Laing, to deliver the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) is so close that after over two years of delay it could now be just a matter of weeks away from an announcement by the DfT.

The significance for Newton Aycliffe is not to be understated. As a manufacturing base, this former new town has seen its industrial fortunes fluctuate. The arrival of Hitachi will bring with it a 450,000 sq ft plant, 500 direct jobs and direct rail access to the site. To say its 'good news' for the town is a significant understatement.

The selection of Newton Aycliffe against 40 other UK locations underlines the

town's connectivity by road and rail, important for Hitachi as the company has horizons beyond the UK and contracts such as the IEP and is openly negotiating for contracts in Europe. This has potential for Teesport.

"This part of Co Durham is an established manufacturing area dating back to its new town days, however more recently it has attracted distribution/logistics operations given the excellent AIM connectivity," says Simon Haggie, industrial partner at Knight Frank. "Faverdale, Darlington, is home to large Argos and Aldi warehouses and more recently Lidl has developed a regional distribution warehouse at Newton Aycliffe.

"Wynyard is increasingly seen as a distribution location because of its location on the A19 and proximity to Teesport, but it was Merchant Place Developments' site at Amazon Park which offered the scale and rail access to attract Hitachi and it is hoped that other larger occupiers

that may come through in due course as part of the supply chain."

The arrival of Hitachi is long-overdue. In 2009, the Agility Trains consortium was announced preferred bidder for the Intercity Express Programme. One year later, the then Secretary of State, Lord Andrew Adonis, ordered a review of the Intercity Express Programme, to ensure that it was value for money for the taxpayer.

Then there was the General Election in the same year which suspended progress on the contract which also led to the new coalition government conducting a spending review. So there have been several impediments to the project though all the while there has been continuing dialogue between the DfT and Agility Trains with close of contract anticipated shortly.

This will be a significant inward investment for the North East. Though not comparable to the scale of Nissan, the Hitachi development will nevertheless underline the fact that the region is an excellent location for Japanese companies. Newton Aycliffe in particular will become an important focal point for a new industry.

Aycliffe Soldier Involved in Olympic Opening Ceremony



Newtonian girl soldier, Zanna Bateman is one of eight chosen from the King's Troop to carry the Union Jack and Olympic flag at the opening of the Olympic Games.

Zanna now 27 attended Sugar Hill and Woodham Comprehensive before joining the Army in 2005. She served in the Royal Signals in Afghanistan and was featured in a T.V. Documentary "Girls on the Front Line". Zanna who has been involved with horses all her life, will be engaged in Army equestrian duties throughout the Olympics. She is based in London and was very pleased to text her family with the news. They are all so proud and

wish her well while looking forward to seeing her on T.V. and when she comes home on leave in September.

Golden Couple Met at "The Telegraph"



John and Irene Fraser had their first date in the Telegraph Inn, Aycliffe Village. Irene was a village lass and attended the school there before going to Leeholme for secondary education. The Mayor Val Raw who called on the couple to congratulate them on their 50th Anniversary, attended the same school as John.

John from Darlington served in the Scots Guards for 3 years before returning home to work in Darlington Rolling Mills. John and Irene were married

in St. Andrew's Church on 14th July 1962 and moved to Newton Aycliffe the following year. John worked at Ridghouse, British Steel, and Smart & Browns before he retired due to ill health.

The couple enjoy Country Music and were members of the Candelite Club in Newton Aycliffe. They have three sons and a daughter with four grandchildren. The family live close by and will come together for a celebration party. After the Olympics John and Irene will travel to London for a weekend and watch a West End Show.

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Performers Wanted for Aycliffe Show

The annual Great Aycliffe Show, organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council, will be taking place on the August Bank Holiday weekend, 25th and 26th August.

In addition to all the usual show attractions, arena entertainment, funfair, refreshments, sport, craft and horticulture competitions, the Playhouse Marquee will provide live performances under cover.

The popular Playhouse Marquee is the perfect venue to showcase local talent of all varieties and show organisers are inviting any singers, dancers, amateur magicians and performers to come along and take the stage for a weekend of fun and entertainment.

Anyone wishing to take part should contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700 to book a place - but hurry, places are limited.

SAD TO LEAVE YOU

Brian and Angela would like to say farewell to all the people they have met in Newton Aycliffe whilst living here.

Circumstances have made us decide to downsize and move closer to family. We will visit the area and see the people we have come to know and regard as friends. Thank you for your friendship. Angela Aydon and Brian Phillips

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Saturday 21st July - "UNCLE GILBERT"

Riffs Online Review: "An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league".
Covering tracks by Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZTop and much more - www.unclegilbert.co.uk

SHOW OF THE MONTH

Friday 27th July - "SKA MANIA"

Rockermouth review from "Stormin the Castle" - "I'd never seem Ska-Mania before. I'd briefly met the singer when he was at the Office one evening watching a band play, and I knew John the keyboardist as he is also the keys-player with the local Whitesnake tribute band, Slip of the Tongue. So it was first time for me seeing these lads in action, but I was very impressed with what I saw. They are a seven-piece outfit, comprising of bass, drums, guitar, keys, horn section of sax and trombone, plus a separate lead singer. They have a great full sound, lots of visuals to see on stage with the group having plenty of members, and you got all the superb bouncy ska classics that you'd expect to hear. I must have missed the first half of the gig, but I did get to hear songs like 'On My Radio' by Selector, plus a ton of Madness tunes including 'Embarrassment', 'Madness' and the awesome 'Nightboat to Cairo'. Most of the band were dressed up for the occasion (all suited and booted), and performed extremely well. For the stage/band area, nothing that much had changed from previous set-up's for Stormin'. It was still the same size marquee; same lay-out, same stage area, and the quality didn't dip. Even the terrible weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the bikers out front dancing along to the music. Ska music has that infectious groove inherent within it, and like-wise there were plenty of folk out there loving it all and getting right in to it. Time was only real factor that the bands had to battle with for their performances, and unfortunately it took longer time than anticipated to get Ska-Mania off and running. So they had their set cut short by 10 minutes to try and catch back up on schedule with the rest of the acts, but for their brief appearance they did a highly impressive job, and certainly brought with them a bit of sunshine for the soul for all those watching. So good in fact that I'd like to see their full set someday, and hope that I can do it soon".

Saturday 28th July - "REQUIEME"

BIO - Requiem are a fully established Rock/Metal cover band from the North East UK. Made up of experienced musicians. Including former members of legendary bands Fist, Tygers of Pan Tang and Blitzkrieg. We play a mixture of songs from the 1970's to the noughties encompassing most genres of rocking music - i.e Classic Rock, AOR, Grunge and popular Heavy Rock/Metal - a band for the true rock fan!!
Gig Pit review - "what a band... top class, if you like heavy rock/metal do yourself a favour get along to see them, brilliant bass n drums, vocals top drawer, and the guitar playing, out of this world - two of the best players in the area, was nice to see Davy Irwin (ex Fist) back in a great band, and the sound man was class, got it spot on..."
Covering tracks by: Foreigner, Soundgarden, The Cars, Dio, Alice In Chains, Gary Moore, Satriani, Scorpions, Metallica and more

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CHILDREN ENJOY LEAVER'S PARTY EON REVISE WIND FARM

On Tuesday 10th July children of Woodham Burn Out of School Club celebrated the end of term with a Leavers Party. They enjoyed tea followed by a special presentation. Each child was presented with a scroll and their journal to take home to keep with photos, news articles, samples of their work and notes made by staff which have been collected over the years. Many of the children are



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due to move onto secondary school in September and have attended the club from a small age and will be greatly missed. We hope they have a

great time at their new school and wish them farewell and good luck.

The children comments after the party and presentation: Matthew V; I have had fun at the OOSC. All of the staff are nice and kind, and help make my time at the club fun.

Joshua W; I have been coming to the OOSC for 6 years and made lots of friends. I have joined in lots of fun activities and outings.

Lewis A; I have enjoyed my time at the club because I like going somewhere where I can make models, structures

from lego and making flags by sewing. I like my journal because it has special memories of things I have made and reminds me of all the fun things I have done at the club.

Ryan J; The OOSC was a euphoric experience, all the activities were great.

To find out more information about the club, arrange a visit or to book a place for your child, during term time (drop offs and pick ups available) or the Summer holidays, please contact Kendra on 300080.

targets and helping to keep the lights on.

If the wind farm receives planning consent, E.ON will set up a community benefit fund worth up to £190,000 per year, which will be used to support local projects throughout the lifetime of the wind farm and these projects will be selected by local people.

The formal stage two consultation period for the Isles Wind Farm runs from 5 July to 9 September 2012. E.ON welcomes feedback on its proposal and has set up dedicated channels to encourage the local community to comment on the scheme. It will also be hosting a second series of public consultation events in the coming months.

To have your say on the site visit www.eon-uk.com/theisles, email theisles@eon-uk.com or call 0800 096 1199. When stage two consultation ends, E.ON will use the responses gathered to shape the proposal further before completing an Environmental Impact Assessment and finalising its submission to the Planning Inspectorate which will be submitted in 2013.

The proposed site for the Isles Wind Farm is approximately 1.5km to the east of Newton Aycliffe in County Durham,

continued from Front Page

and extends from Morden in the East to Newton Aycliffe in the West and from Bradbury in the North to Preston-le-Skerne in the South. The wind

turbines remain the same height as those outlined in the initial proposals for the scheme and will be between 100m and 126m tall.

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From the Editor
syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Wind Farm More Likely

Eon's revised layout for the proposed Wind Farm near Newton Aycliffe has distinct possibilities of being accepted. Reducing the number of turbines to 24 has significantly lessened the environmental impact which so many people opposed.

There are still some concerns and Eon won't get it all their own way, even with the promised £190,000 kickback a year for local projects.

If it does receive permission there will be fun and games over who will decide who and what gets this sizeable chunk of cash each year. We understand a board of trustees will be appointed or elected to choose which applications for cash will be approved.

It is hoped politicians do not get these positions and that ordinary people get a chance to pick what projects would benefit the area.

Lets also hope, unlike AAP money, there is no exorbitant administration charge in dispensing the cash. If it's kept out of the hands of the County Council the whole amount can be spent locally.

STOP PRESS

Police Authority Chairman Peter Thompson told the Town Council this week they are in negotiation to provide a Police Office in the Town Centre,

The Authority is proposing the Police share the premises with the Fire Station next door to the old Poice Station to give residents a central point of contact.

The news was welcomed by Great Aycliffe Residents Association who met yesterday to discuss the overwhelming demand for a town centre police office in the survey they are currently conducting.

Nursery Graduation Day



Playday Nursery held their very 1st graduation on Tuesday 10th July for the children who are leaving to go to school. The children performed a selection of their favourite songs for parents and relatives, before being presented with a certificate and present by Linda Watts, Nursery Manager. We would like to wish all who are moving on to the next stage of their learning lots of luck in the future.

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Major Development Proposals for Co. Durham

Major proposals that will help to shape the future landscape, population and economy of County Durham are to be unveiled next week. The County Durham Plan is the first county-wide development strategy and will shape development in the area for the next 20 years.

The plan shows, for the first time, the types of development which are earmarked for towns and communities across County Durham, from Consett to Barnard Castle.

It outlines key sites where future housing and jobs could be created, as well as details on how new infrastructure can best support sustainable development.

Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet will be asked to agree a

public consultation on the proposals, which are supported by the council's regeneration statement and infrastructure delivery plan. All three documents are to be discussed by Cabinet next Tuesday 24th July.

The plan includes proposals for each of the county's 12 main towns and for rural areas. These proposals build on previous consultation and involve working with partners and other interested parties to ensure that the ambitions for the county's development are achievable and sustainable.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Durham County Council, said: "The County Durham Plan is the council's most important regeneration document, setting out how

we can make the best of County Durham's assets to create a sustainable economy supported by strong communities.

"It looks at where key housing sites will be needed to support job creation, for example in Durham City, Peterlee and Newton Aycliffe, where it is anticipated Hitachi and other major employers will locate. "It identifies the sites where businesses can thrive – such as the strategic employment site in Seaham, and the Aykley Heads site in Durham City which is viewed as one of the best locations in the region for attracting private sector business investment.

"And it looks at leisure and tourism, including major proposals for a new executive housing development, leading to the creation of public access to the parkland at the Lambton Castle estate, near Chester-le-Street, which we see as a major regional tourist attraction."

The plan represents the council's response to the economic challenges facing the county and the wider region, which include unemployment, a high reliance on the public sector and funding changes affecting the support available to businesses investing in the area.

It is aimed at maximising opportunities for private sector investment, linking jobs, housing and retail to create confidence in the county.

Cllr Foster added: "This is very much about creating sustainable development across the whole county in partnership with private sector developers and other stakeholders.

"Under these proposals, developers will be expected to support the creation of the infrastructure which communities across the county and industry need to thrive – from road and transport networks to health and educational facilities.

"Our infrastructure delivery plan and proposed community infrastructure levy sets out different charging rates for different locations and types of development, which is aimed at encouraging development and investment in all parts of the county.

"Our aim is to set the framework for a vibrant and prosperous County Durham where people want to live, work, invest and visit.

"We believe that the proposals we are putting forward represent the best and most effective way of delivering growth for our communities."

Cabinet members will be asked to agree the preferred option for the County Durham Plan and approve a recommendation for a public consultation on this option to give residents a chance to respond.

FREE ARTS & CRAFT WORKSHOPS



Fed up of the rain? Thinking of something to do this summer with the kids, that doesn't cost? Why not come along to the weekly 'Colour your Life' art sessions at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe? It's indoors and always buzzing with creative activity for all ages.

The PCP Centre have organised weekly family sessions that encourage all ages to get creative. The classes are packed with easy, fun projects and activities such as painting, sculpture, graffiti and dance, allowing youngsters to express themselves in a variety of ways.

The family sessions in the school holidays are on Tuesday mornings, then from September the family sessions will be every Saturday 10-12noon.

The dates are:
Tuesday 24 July, 10.30am-12noon
Tuesday 31 July, 10.30am-12noon
Tuesday 7 August, 10.30am-1.30pm - Olympic themed Family Fun Day! Free entry and free activities- family games, arts and crafts, healthy, cooking

and smoothie making.

Tuesday 14 August, 10.30am-12noon

The sessions are free and children attending must be under eleven years old and accompanied by an adult.

The mixed craft sessions for adults on a Friday morning & afternoon and Saturday morning welcomes people who would like to learn a new craft from professional artists who are working in the marketplace today. Plus all classes take place in pleasant surroundings and give everyone the chance to learn new skills, make new friends and relax in a friendly atmosphere. No artistic experience or quality necessary!

A current participant said, "I didn't quite know what to expect but I gave it a go and everyone is so friendly. I'm no artist but love the opportunity to try different things whilst meeting new people. I'd recommend Colour Your Life to everyone!"

Why not call today to find out more or to book your place at the family summer sessions. Tel: 01325 321234
 Email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net.

PARISH PRIEST COMMENTS ON POLICE STATION

Dear Sir,

It is reported that the Police Station on Central Avenue in Newton Aycliffe is to be demolished and the site sold for an estimated £3 million. There are persistent but unsubstantiated rumours that a retail outlet wants to build on the site.

When the Station was closed in early 2011 an undertaking was given that a new Station would be built on the site. We are told now that a decision has not been made on whether a new Police Station is to be built in or near the town centre.

Meanwhile, the community's Police Station is now located in the Aycliffe Business Park. It is at the far end of the town and extremely remote from the majority of the people who live here.

This location makes it very difficult, if not impossible, for many members of the community, especially those who do not have private transport, to get to the Station if they wish to raise concerns, seek reassurance about events in their neighbourhood or report a

crime.

There is a genuine fear that the present 'temporary' Station, located in the Business Park, will become permanent, especially if there is no comment or protest from the community. Clearly, this would not be in the best interests of the vast majority of the people who live in Aycliffe.

I urge readers to take part in the Survey being carried out by the Great Aycliffe Residents Association (GARA) which wants to find out the wishes of the town's residents about their Police Station.

The Survey asks one simple question: Do you want a Police Station in a more central location in the town? Yes/No? GARA will submit these findings to the Police Authority.

Whatever our views on this matter, it is incumbent on all of us to make them known to the relevant authority. If we don't, yet another decision will be made in the interests of the few and not of the many.

Fr Michael Campion

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The Sounds of Spain



The children of Byerley Park School enjoyed a morning of show stopping music and dance on Thursday 12th July. The fabulous Spanish 'Banda de la Maria' were given a very warm welcome by the pupils, who enjoyed a spectacular and lively performance from them.

Travelling from their home country of Spain, our Olympic country of support, the band performed a festival style programme using trumpets, trombones, saxophones, bass drums, snare drums and even a sousaphone.

Their performance included a collage of styles that were entertaining and fun!

The children and staff enjoyed their fantastic music and even joined the band by using their imaginations to play their own instruments and danced to the sounds of Spain!

We would like to say a special thank you to Katy Milne from Greenfield School for offering us this exciting opportunity and would happily welcome 'Banda de la Maria' back to our school again.

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Sue Ryder Summer Sale

The summer sale has started at Sue Ryder in Newton Aycliffe, many of our popular new goods, including garden and homeware ranges are now half the original selling price. There are fantastic bargains throughout the store, childrens clothing at 50p, mens and ladieswear from an amazing 95p, hurry as stock is moving fast!

Our annual fundraiser Ride4Ryder is under way, we are raising much needed funds to continue our palliative care for people living with end of life conditions such as cancer, heart disease and brain injury.

This year children between 8 and 13 are taking part in a sponsored bike ride, we are hoping to raise £500, our fund currently is £150. If you would like to make a donation, sponsor a participant, or would like further information about what we do, please call into the shop and see Chelsie the manager. Due to the unpredictable weather the event date is still to be confirmed, however we are hoping to complete the sponsored cycle before the end of July.

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Shortlisted candidates would need to be available for interview on the morning of the 20th August 2012

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Outrageous Government Policies Will Hurt Vulnerable People

Dear Sir,
I am deeply alarmed that our government is creating changes that will affect so many people, hitting where it hurts, in the pocket of those less fortunate than themselves. Major reforms to areas of unemployment benefits, assistance with housing and council tax and allowances to support people back into work, will never impact on Members of Parliament because their SECURE salaries far outweigh the budgets of those affected. If council tax is to be reduced by 10% then an increase has to be made somewhere else to compensate and maintain a workable allowance to suit the individuals' needs. The margin of higher rents increased in the north, to keep in line with those of the south is ludicrous! The employment sector is greatly divided in unequal proportions, yet the north still has to foot the bills of inflation alongside the

south. As a tenant in Newton Aycliffe for 33years, annual rent increases have always been applied in April, the beginning of a financial year and have subsequently risen with inflation on average £2 - £3. This year the increase is £7 just to keep in line with the south. The government is responsible for closing down businesses and them moving abroad, so what do we as British citizens expect to receive to compensate our loss in skilled trade? A benefit system which defeats public inspiration, sense of wellbeing and increased crime. Surely it cannot be the way forward to develop policies to charge working age tenants (who are already in receipt of some social housing benefit) an extra £13 per bedroom not slept in? It is absolutely outrageous, not only is this scaremongering tactics but an offence of harassment and abuse to the

vulnerable who now find themselves living alone. It is soul destroying to even suggest these vulnerable people should prepare to downsize. Where is the allowance for compassion? I do understand that families in need of bigger housing are hopeful this policy goes through, but not before the provision of one bedroom accommodation is made available! If Councils are not providing for the single person, then they cannot expect people to downsize and give up the home they've nurtured, carrying memories of loved ones. It is the government's responsibility to provide accommodation needs for all residents born and living in this country. It is a bonus that we as a nation, welcome and offer accommodation and employment to legal immigrants who receive the same rights.
Julie Thorne

Mayor at Golden Wedding Celebration



John Hennessey and Doreen Stephenson met at the Palace Picture House in Wingate (a very popular place for courting couples in those days). Doreen was 16 from Hesleden and John from Station Town was 18.

Doreen worked at Nimmo's Brewery in Castle Eden and for GEC at Hartlepool on the telephone assembly line. John left school at 15 and started work at a pig and poultry farm at Elwick. A year later he followed in his father's footsteps down the mine (even though he begged him not to) starting work at Wingate Colliery aged 16. After 7 years John joined the RAF as a regular airman as an armament mechanic, he was stationed at RAF Waddington and in 1962 was posted to Singapore.

In the same year on 14th July John and Doreen were married in St. Joseph's R.C. Church at Blackhall. On 5th August John flew to Singapore and Doreen followed in October. They spent 2½ years there and their son Stephen was born in Changi Hospital.

John's service with the RAF ended in 1964 and they returned to the UK. They first lived in Peterlee and after a couple of years settled in Newton Aycliffe where John worked at Lehman, Archer & Lane and Tallents. In 1969 he moved to Black & Decker and stayed for 28 years until redundancy and retirement at the age of 61.

Doreen's first job was as a home help, followed by a spell at GEC finally working part-time at Barclays Bank as an office cleaner.

In his younger days John played football for Wingate Wanderers alongside his brother Joe. He also played in the RAF team. After football he took up golf, winning a few trophies along the way. He enjoys keeping fit and relaxes by painting in water colours and growing fuscias. He is a self-taught pianist and loves to sing along whilst playing the piano. John is a sociable character and enjoys his regular Friday nights at The Navy Club where he has a pint, a game of snooker and a bit 'craic'. He is an accomplished snooker player and won trophies for the Southerne Club.

Doreen's interests are more home based: baking, jigsaws, flower arranging, gardening, painting and decorating and she excels at complicated knitting. John and Doreen have three children and two grandchildren all of whom joined them for their Golden Wedding Anniversary. As part of their celebrations John and Doreen are looking forward to week's holiday in The Isle of Wight, their favourite holiday destination.

County Consults on Health & Wellbeing

Dear Sir,
The County Council has just published on its Consultations webpage a call for responses to its Joint Health and Wellbeing

Strategy. You can look at the proposed Objectives and Actions in this strategy document: <http://bit.ly/OGb2pX>

And you can give your opinions online at this address: <http://svy.mk/MERP5b>

Two issues strike me as especially important. Questions 3 and 5 ask if the strategy has missed anything. This is the kind of question where individual experience is vitally important. In your health situation, what would have made things better, and is that included in the list? To help improve the strategy, you need to write down how things could have been improved for you.

The second key matter is question 6, which asks: 'In the future would you like to be involved in providing your views on health and wellbeing?' and requesting an email contact address. Even if you feel you have nothing to say about the strategy in general, it is vital that you say yes to this question, so that you will be kept informed of future initiatives and developments.

Most of us are proud of our NHS; it is the organisation which literally saves the lives of those we love. Having said that, if you talk to anyone about their experience of the NHS - especially to those with chronic conditions - you will hear story after story of exasperation and complaint. It is a wonderful opportunity that we are being asked what we feel and what we want. I urge as many Aycliffe people as possible to read the strategy document, complete the online reply, and register for future consultations. Let's make our collective voice audible!

Please note that the last date to reply is 11 July.
John D Clare

TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES PRAISED

Dear Sir,
I attended the Extraordinary Meeting of Great Aycliffe Town Council on 28th June 2012. I'm pleased to advise that the District Auditor gave yet another 'unqualified' report on the Council's accounts. In common parlance an 'unqualified' report means there are no issues or concerns raised during the course of the audit and the finances are well managed. The Auditor praised Dan Austin, Finance Officer, on producing clear, unambiguous accounts and also praised the Council on achieving year on year tight financial controls.

It was disappointing that only five Independent Councillors were in attendance at this important meeting - a meeting where the Councillors are afforded the opportunity, once a year, to question the person who has undertaken a comprehensive audit of the Council's finances.

In the last five years I've attended numerous Council meetings (probably more than some of the sitting Councillors) and during that time I cannot recall any questions being raised by the Independent Councillors on any financial issues relating to the mid term financial plan, the balance sheet or budgets, save for an embarrassing question as to what the figures in brackets represented on the balance sheet.

Almost five years ago, in the run up to the last elections, the Independents promised the townsfolk to half the Council Tax precept and make significant savings in the running of the town. I strongly suspect that the Independents have catastrophically failed to keep their promises to the electorate.
Jed Hillary
Ross Walk

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Dixon Road, Newton Aycliffe - NEW - £85,000
 Impressive and deceptively spacious residence. Situated in a quiet area and needs to be viewed internally to be fully appreciated. Priced for an early sale and no chain.



Ida Place, Newton Aycliffe - £72,950
 A well presented & improved 3 bed end terrace house. Close to shops, doctors and play school. Modern fitted kitchen, combi central heating, modern bathroom, DG. Ideal family home.



Beechfield, Newton Aycliffe - £97,000
 Four bedroom terraced home, downstairs WC, kitchen / dining room, lounge, garage, driveway with 2 off road parking spaces, DG and GCH. No chain.



Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe - £69,000
 2 bedroom terrace, double glazed, GCH, enclosed garden to rear, separate WC. Partly refurbished.



Lingard Walk, Newton Aycliffe - £115,000
 Three bedroom terrace house, fitted kitchen, DG, GCH, rear garden, well maintained home - must be viewed!



Oakfield, Newton Aycliffe - £100,000
 3 bedroom terrace property. Lounge, modern fitted kitchen / diner, garage, DG, easy maintenance gardens.



Sunnysdale, Shildon - £80,000
 A 3 bed semi, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen / WC, 3 beds + family bathroom, front and rear gardens, paving, flower borders and storage shed.



Bowes Road, Newton Aycliffe - £80,000
 Two bedroom semi detached property, offering DG, conservatory, modern kitchen. Internal viewing strongly recommended.



Guthrum Place, Newton Aycliffe - £81,000
 3 bedroom end link house in a modern development in Newton Aycliffe. Fitted kitchen, DG, GCH and rear garden. Must be viewed.



Hatfield Road, Newton Aycliffe - £112,500
 3 bedroom mid terrace property. Close to local amenities. Central heating, lounge, kitchen, dining room uPVC double glazing with enclosed gardens. Immediate possession.



Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe - £59,500
 Three bedroom mid terrace house conveniently situated, modern fitted kitchen, modern bathroom, garden, DG. Ideal family home.



Kestrel Court, Newton Aycliffe - £139,999
 Three bedroom detached property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, garden and garage. GCH, DG.



Chillingham Grove, Woodham Village - £115,000
 An attractive 3 bedroom semi detached property. Fitted kitchen/ diner, modern bathroom / WC, DG, GCH, pleasant cul-de-sac location.



McKenzie Place, Newton Aycliffe - £75,000
 3 bedroom link house conveniently situated for town centre, fitted kitchen, bathroom, garden, DG. Ideal family home

Garage Celebrates 30 Years Service to Town

Tony Brewster who started his business in 1982 is the longest trading independent garage on Aycliffe Business Park.

He lives with his wife and two daughters in Newton Aycliffe and is a keen tropical and pond fish-keeper and gardener.

His wife Heather is a qualified accountant, recently retired as Head of Finance in County Durham Primary Care Trust. She is also a qualified swimming teacher, pool lifeguard, and runs free after school swimming clubs at Woodham.

The couple have two daughters, Vicky 27 and Katy 23. Vicky worked on reception at the garage after leaving Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College, and now works in Darlington. She is also a singer/songwriter and has her own band, 'Fear Before the Phrase', who perform throughout the



Founder Tony Brester with his staff

country. Katy joined Proctor & Gamble when she completed her A level studies at Queen Elizabeth 6th Form College and now deals with financial issues of P&G owned Companies across Europe. Tony has four long serving employees, Jonathan joined the business straight

from school 21 years ago. Matthew also came from school 18 years ago as an apprentice after a work experience placement from school Chris joined the garage in May this year and has 7 years' experience in the motor trade. Carl recently joined as part of the Bishop Auckland

College Apprentice Scheme which Tony has supported for many years.

Brewsters have invested heavily in both the training of staff and the purchase of new equipment to ensure they use the most up to date working practices.

The firm offers free collection & delivery service in Newton Aycliffe, Woodham and Heighington. They specialise in the service and repair of vehicles including work for MOT. Tony is a licensed air conditioning provider and has engine, airbag and ABS diagnostics equipment.

The company recently signed up as a sponsor of Newton Aycliffe Football Club.

Tony said "I would like to thank all my customers, especially those who brought their cars to me in the early days. I am proud to have three generations of some families using our services."

Flymo Does the Job After Landlord Refuse to Cut Grass



Cllr Bill Blenkinsopp with Sylvia & Husqvarna Manager Paul Coates

Aycliffe Manufacturers of Flymo machines, Husqvarna, last week came to the rescue of 81 year old Sylvia Snowball, a partially blind resident of St. Andrew's Close, Aycliffe Village.

The company heard from local Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp that she was being denied help from her landlord to cut the 2½ foot high grass outside her bungalow and promptly deployed two men to do the work. It took three days to complete, using strimmers and powerful lawn mowers with 28 large bags of grass to take away.

Sylvia was delighted and could not thank Manager Paul Coates enough for his kind gesture. However she was absolutely overwhelmed when the company returned with a brand new robot lawn mower which will cut her grass in future.

Sedgefield Borough Homes had always cut her grass as she was disabled, but the new landlords "livin" have introduced new rules which places Sylvia outside the criteria as she has family

living nearby who they say should keep her lawn tidy.

"When 'livin' took over the rented properties they promised nothing would change, but they have broken that promise" complained Sylvia.

"I do have family but do not want them responsible for cutting this large area of grass" said Sylvia a very independent lady despite her disability.

Counc Blenkinsopp is working hard to get "livin" to change their rules and has already had three similar cases involving elderly disabled people reversed. One is a double amputee who lives in Clarence Chare. and two others are aged 95. It appears there are many such cases and like Sylvia the problem is causing much stress among our elderly residents

STOP PRESS: Peter Hughes of Biscop Crescent has just contacted Newton News. He is 82 and has also been refused grasscutting service by "livin". He has a daughter. but she has a spinal condition and cannot cut grass!

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

Thanks to funding from the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership local young people have the opportunity to produce, direct, act and premier their own movies. The Creative Routes project received over £4,000 towards the cost of producing 4 short films over the school summer holiday period.

Young people will have the chance to work alongside a professional film maker and drama facilitator to create their feature films, they will also organise a short film festival where members of the local community can go along to view the work.

More activities as part of this project will take place from 23rd to 25th July at Woodham Community Technology College and 30th July to 1st August based at Greenfield Community and Arts Centre.

"This is a great opportunity for local young people to get involved in creating and showcasing their films" says film maker Ben Race.

Family History

The next meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Family History Society is 7.30pm on Wednesday 25th July in the Church of the Latter Day Saints. The format of the meeting will be a general research evening. Further details may be obtained from the Chairman, Keith Bell on 01325 307905

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Wishing Well Club Win Most Events at Northern Games



The jubilant Wishing Well Team who competed in the Northern Games for the Disabled organised annually by the Rotary Clubs of the North East. Proud winners are shown in the front row taking winning places in seven of the 13 events. The town's Rotary Club took the contestants to Middlesbrough FC's Huntingshaw Centre for the day and ran one of the events. Everyone who attended thanks Walker's Butchers for the tasty picnic and all the Rotarians who supported them on the day.

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 11th JULY

Last week's Policy and Resources Committee of Great Aycliffe Town Council dealt with two issues of significance. The first concerned the (postponed) question of a donation to the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB). Speaking for the Labour Group, Cllr Clare outlined the difficulty of making a decision in this case. The financial needs of the CAB organisation are so vast that any donation by GATC would make little or no difference. No money had been allocated

for a grant in the Council's budget, and the donations budget stood at only £2800. The Council most certainly would not commit itself to an annual grant, not least because elections in 2013 would see a completely new Council. Having said that, however, CAB provides an invaluable service – one which was likely to become more vital in the future as the recession and the cuts began to bite – and figures supplied by CAB showed that most people attending Newton Aycliffe CAB were from Great Aycliffe. Consequently, the Labour Group was recommending that GATC make a donation of £6933, which would fund 6 generalist case work appointments per session, advice session supervision, reception and clerical cover and a contribution towards volunteer training. The grant was being given on the understanding that it had to be ring-fenced for Newton Aycliffe, and that it constituted a once-only donation to help CAB get over the financial shock of the cuts whilst they readjusted their organisation to the new financial situation. The money would have to be taken from contingencies. This proposal was agreed by the Council. The second issue concerned the Medium Term Financial Plan. The MTFP does not set the Council's budget, but looks forward to the financial issues the Council is likely to face. The Council has just received a glowing report from the Auditor, and is in a sound financial condition. Speaking for the Labour Group, however, Cllr Clare stated that GATC faces significant concerns for the future. There is continued uncertainty about the Double Taxation grant from Durham County Council. Also, Government changes to the Council Tax Benefit system would reduce the tax base, and therefore the council's income – what made this particularly alarming is that GATC had no way as yet of knowing how great the reduction might be, from tens of thousands to more than a hundred thousand pounds a year. Added to that, there were vague threats from Westminster about a cap, even cuts, on Town and Parish Council precepts. What was

Looking After Our Elderly People

Dear Sir,
Part of the work of the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Mary's R. C. Church, involves visiting the elderly. Many of them live alone, and are sick, ill, housebound or infirm. Our members were appalled to learn that some of these people have been informed they are no longer eligible to have their grass cut and their gardens cared for. Others are expected to put out their own bins despite being in their eighties and extremely frail. Some are unable to leave their homes due to inappropriate access (lack of ramps) leaving them feeling alone and isolated. The members of our society would like to highlight the plight of these people

as the situation is causing unnecessary anxiety and emotional distress to these most vulnerable and needy people in our area. We have informed both 'lavin' and the local M.P. of our concerns in the hope they will provide us with an opportunity to discuss this matter further. In order to make a difference please give your support by writing to 'lavin' and expressing your shared concerns. Thank you for your support, Saint Vincent De Paul Society

Why Did Woodham Go it Alone?

Dear Sir,
I write in connection with Woodham College becoming an academy. Clearly the Governing Body must have weighed up all the facts before taking such a momentous step but the article needs to be put into perspective. Any academy continues to be state funded but not via the local authority but directly by the Department for Education ie in Woodham's case, the academy is no longer under the protective 'umbrella' of Durham County Council. Yes the academy will receive additional funding from DfE but this will be needed to pay for services which are currently provided 'free of charge' by the local authority. The Government's stated aim on more than one occasion is that academies are to be funded no better or worse than local authority schools. I would also question the phrase 'Following consultation with the wider community'. As your excellent publication is the main source of local news/events etc for all Newton Aycliffe residents, one would

assume that Woodham's consultation plans were originally formally set out in the Newton News asking for views. Did that happen? Finally, it was only 3 or so years ago that the Aycliffe Secondary Schools Educational Trust (ASSET) was set up so that Woodham, Greenfield and Shildon Sunnydale schools could formally work together to share good practice and increase the educational aspirations and achievements of all local students. It makes you wonder why Woodham suddenly sees the need to 'go it alone'! It is pleasing to note that Greenfield and Sunnydale are still working very closely together to promote this aim despite Woodham's withdrawal from the trust. I take the reference to DfE approving Woodham's application for academy status because 'it is a school which is performing well' to be an insult to the many, many other schools in the area doing likewise but do not see the need to 'go it alone'. Name and address supplied

Metal Theft

Overnight on Tuesday 10th the compound of premises on Coatham Avenue was entered and a quantity of metal stolen. Thieves also attempted to force open a metal storage container at premises in Whinfield Drive. Metal remains the main target of thieves on our business parks. Please report suspicious activity to the Police on Tel: 101 and take advantage of alerting other members on the Business Watch website forum www.durhambusinesswatch.org.uk

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worrying was not the current financial state of the Council, but the complete lack of figures about the extent of the cuts the Council would face. Cllr Clare thanked the Finance Manager for a clear and informative Plan, but the MTFP would need to be revised at least once before the Budget as – hopefully – these issues were clarified. Speaking from the Chair, Cllr Fleming emphasised that the Council was not in any trouble financially at the moment, but that it needed to brace itself for possible financial shocks in the future. The Council unanimously agreed the MTFP on a named vote. Finally, Councillors agreed a recommendation for the purchase of replacement vehicles. Within the budget allocated to replace the Ford Transit Crew Cab (which is now 11 years old and has literally stopped), the Works Manager has managed to arrange a deal to buy two new Mitsubishi L200 vehicles ... which will allow us also to replace the Parks Ranger's Vauxhall Corsa (which is 15 years old). Councillors agreed that these new vehicles will be a wise purchase as we move into an uncertain financial future. J. D. Clare

School Holidays Special Offer

Are you looking for something new to do while on holiday from school? During every school holiday we are offering Junior Squash, Badminton or Table Tennis at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex at the special price of only £1.00 per person for 45 minutes of fun! All we ask is that you are aged between 8 and 15 years. You can play any time Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 4.00pm and we will even loan you the equipment free of charge. So, telephone our Reception on 01325 300600 on the day you wish to play to book your court, or just turn up, and providing the courts are available you can play as a complete beginner, or to improve your existing game, or just to have fun.

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Church Close Newton Aycliffe
3 bedroomed recently updated detached house in cul de sac close to town centre. Furnished with carpets, curtains, fitted robes & appliances. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, feature fireplace, conservatory, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower/WC, 2 double & 1 large single bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, gardens (private at rear), garage & parking. £600pcm

Harebell Meadows Woodham Village
3 bedroomed modern detached house situated in a pleasant cul de sac, unfurnished with carpets, curtains, appliances, fitted robes. Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge/diner, conservatory, downstairs WC, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, upstairs bathroom. Gas CH, gardens & garage. Rent £625 pcm

Hawkshead Place Newton Aycliffe
Modern 3 bedroomed 3 storey townhouse, part-furnished with carpets, curtains, appliances & some basic furniture. Hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, lounge with french doors to garden, 1st floor: 1 double & 1 single bedroom, family bathroom/WC; 2nd floor: master bedroom with en suite shower/WC. Gas CH, garden, parking. Rent £660 pcm

Pemberton Road Woodham
Refurbished modern 3 bedroomed semi-detached house, unfurnished with carpets, curtains/blinds, oven, refrigerator. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, breakfast kitchen, 1 double & 1 single bedroom, upstairs bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, gardens & parking. Rent £475 pcm.

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Woodham Wins £1000 Olympic Prize



Woodham students won themselves a trip to London to see the Olympics and £1000 for their school in a prestigious national competition. The students, Natasha Blackburn, Scott Dawson, Brenna Finn, Caitlin Hindle and Ryan Metcalfe came second in the STEM Challenge in London last week.

STEM Challenges are a series of competitions designed to encourage young people to use the skills learnt in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to think and work creatively about the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Cisco, STEMNET and the Pearson Foundation challenged students to consider the venue, location, sport, resources, facilities and equipment to plan a large scale, accessible and sustainable event in their home area. As one of eight finalists, the Woodham team was invited to Cisco House, overlooking the Olympic Park, to a Dragon's Den style pitch to a panel of expert judges.

The judges were impressed with the team's plan for a triathlon event in Newton Aycliffe, involving running, swimming and cycling. Students supported their presentation with their own DVD and event merchandise. One of the judges summarised their performance as "awesome".

The idea to enter the competition came from the students' Chemistry teacher, Miss Telford, who will use the prize money to further invest in Woodham's Science club. Christine Forsyth, headteacher at Woodham, said "This was a great opportunity for some of our most able students to put their knowledge of Science, Mathematics and Technology into practice. Everyone at Woodham is very proud of their achievement".

Schools Take Pride in the Environment



Aycliffe Village Primary School



Byerely Park Primary School



Stephenson Way Primary School



St. Francis Primary School



St. Joseph's Primary School



St. Mary's Primary School



Sugar Hill Primary School

Local schoolchildren recently had the opportunity to make their town a better, cleaner place to live thanks to 'Town Pride Environment Week' organised by Aycliffe Youth Council and Great Aycliffe Town Council.

During this campaign every primary school within the town had the opportunity to take part in a presentation about litter, which explored the potential consequences to the environment and nature from littering. This was then followed up with a class litter pick when the children were offered the chance to help clear up their local environment.

Great Aycliffe Town Council's Environment Officer said "Despite the indifferent weather Town Pride Environment week was a roaring success. We hope

that the children learned some new facts from the presentations and this will equip them well to educate their friends and families about the perils of littering". He continued "We followed up the presentations with the litter picks to reinforce the key anti littering messages; as we were walking around the children were able to answer questions about decomposition rates and what could be potentially damaged by the litter which they found".

It was noted by most schools that there was far less litter compared to previous years. It is hoped that this positive trend is continued in future years and can therefore be attributed to the positive actions of the children and the Town Pride Environment Week.

PM Replies on Equal Rights for Pensioners

Dear Editor, PM Cameron replied to my complaint, that his two tier pension scheme will be discriminatory to existing pensioners. He has passed my letter to the Dept. of Works and Pensions. This Dept. replied, saying that the Government's intention is to simplify the present pension system and the new system was laid out in the last budget. Full Stop!

I therefore wrote to the Commission for Equal Opportunities. They replied saying that despite the existing discriminatory Laws in England, it is lawful to discriminate on age. So Hoteliers cannot refuse a bed to a pair of 'gays' but they can refuse a bed to a Pensioner. Holiday insurance is one of many other examples!

Next I wrote to the Commission for Human Rights. They stated that in order for them to take action it would have to be shown in the English Courts that what the Government was doing is illegal. What chance?

So protest to change the Law would seem to be the only way forward, but is there any group prepared to take up this challenge on behalf of existing Pensioners? Remember, they will lose out on £151 per month. Can they / you afford to lose this?

Henry Ballantyne



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Annual Sports Presentation



Another fantastic year of School Sport was celebrated last week at Greenfield School. Having finished TOP of the 2011-12 Sedgefield School Sport medal table for the 3rd consecutive year, the school and their students had a lot to celebrate. It was also great to see two Primary schools from Newton Aycliffe placed in the top 3, out of over 30 Primary schools in Sedgefield. Well done.

Sedgefield SSP Primary Medal Table:

- 1st - Stephenson Way
- 2nd - Thornhill
- 3rd - Aycliffe Village

Sedgefield SSP

Secondary Medal Table

- 1st - Greenfield School
- 2nd - Sedgefield Community College

3rd - Spennymoor School
On Thursday 12th July Greenfield held their annual Sports Presentation recognising a wide range of individual and team achievements. Over 200 pupils and their families came to celebrate their successes along with an entertaining ceremony by Greenfield PE department.

There were hundreds of nominations, the following were presented as the overall winners, very well done to these very worthy winners:-
Sports Personality of the Year: Ben Potts and Amber Dolby
Most Improved Award: James Addy and Emily Johnson
Commitment to Sport Award: Jessica Hall and Sam Dobinson
Team of the Year: U16 Netball Squad Team (Unbeaten in five years) - Izzy Gardner, Frances Wade, Lucy Clark, Holly Dargue, Holly Carpenter, Emma Colbourne, Rachel Layfield-Carroll, Charlotte Allen and Beth Todd

Sportsman/Sportswoman of the Year for Outstanding Performance in School Sport: Andrew White and Courtne Mills
Sports Leader Award: Izzy Gardner and Baily Goyns

We would also like to thank Martin Gray for presenting the trophies and for his tremendous support over the last year.

The Martin Gray football academy has made a massive contribution to our thriving PE department. It has been

a great addition to our target sports of Football, Netball, Tennis, Dance, Trampoline, Athletics and Cricket

We are also very excited about the launch of an eighth target sport of Basketball in September 2012.

Our U14 Basketball Academy is to be launched in partnership with the Durham Wild Cats early next year (watch this space).

We also wish our U16 basketball players the best of luck - having been selected onto the U16 National League squad earlier this term, very well done.

For more information about our Summer holiday programme or Community Sport opportunities contact our Sports facility manager Michael Rippon on 07879 117224. (Activities include - Jujitsu, Cheerleading, Tennis, Netball, Karate, Gymnastics, Trampoline, MGFA Football, Dance, Zumba and many more fitness and exercise opportunities such as Bokwa and Dancercise). Don't miss out give Michael a ring.

AAP Funds Help Town Youngsters Enjoy New Activities

Budding DJs and sport stars are being given the chance to shine thanks to new sessions in Newton Aycliffe.

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Area Action Partnership has come together with Durham County Council's Sport and Leisure Services to offer Aycliffe young people the chance to try new sport and leisure facilities for a small, nominal fee.

Many young people don't have the opportunity to try new sports or activities because of financial constraints and others come from families which don't get involved in sport.

The sessions will begin in September at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and qualified staff will work with sports clubs to deliver sessions such as kayaking, rock climbing, DJ workshops, boot camps, swimming and zumba.

During the summer holidays staff from Sport and Leisure Services and the council's One Point Service will be working with youngsters to allow them to be involved in deciding which activities and sports they want to be included in the project.

Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator, said: "This is a fantastic project which we were happy to support as it will break down barriers which some families face and which may stop young people getting into sport."

As well as trying out new sports, young people will be offered the chance to meet socially on a weekly basis with the support of youth leaders from Durham County Council's One Point service who will be on hand to address any concerns the young people may want to discuss. GAMP has given £4,227 to support the project. Anyone interested in taking part in any of the sessions should contact Lesley Tindale, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre Manger on 01325 300 500.

Organise a Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

A cancer charity is appealing for over 400 people in County Durham to help it raise over £80,000 - by drinking coffee and eating cake. Macmillan Cancer Support wants this year's World's Biggest Coffee Morning to be the biggest ever. The charity is hoping over 400 coffee mornings will take place across the County Durham area and raising over £80,000. Across the UK Macmillan hopes to raise a massive £10.7m from the event, beating its £10m total from last year.

Macmillan's fundraising manager for Co Durham Michelle Muir, said: "Last year we raised a record-breaking amount of money from the World's Biggest Coffee Morning and we really hope we can repeat that again this year."

"I think it's a mark of how much people love this event that every year it gets bigger and bigger. People can be so busy, that catching up with friends, workmates or even family can be difficult. This event gives them a reason to make time for each other while also doing something really valuable for people with cancer and their families."

The money raised from the World's Biggest Coffee Morning is used to fund services such as our information and support centres based in all the hospitals around Co Durham. While the event has traditionally involved people having straightforward coffee mornings, people in County Durham have expanded the event to include for example, wine-tasting evenings, quiz nights, ladies pamper days, family fun days and even art shows

Fundraiser Michelle Muir believes the flexibility of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning is another reason it's so successful. Michelle said: "We give all our hosts a fundraising pack and lots of ideas but whether they choose to have a coffee morning on the official event day, a cocktail evening at the

weekend or a quiz event the week after is up to them. All we want is for people to do something they enjoy with people they want to spend time with while raising some money for Macmillan".

"Sadly the number of people being diagnosed with cancer is increasing every year and that means Macmillan's support for people living with cancer is in more demand than ever. Every pound raised by those taking part in events like the World's Biggest Coffee Morning helps us be there for someone with cancer when they need us most."

The official World's Biggest Coffee Morning day is on September 28.



To find out more about the event visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 602 1246

For more information contact Michelle Muir on 07809554967

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NOISE THAT ANNOYS

Dear Editor
Has anyone else noticed how noisy the current environment has become in recent times? We are currently being bombarded with excessive noise in our daily lives. To list a few of the perpetrators who blight our lives with their incessant noise are:-

- 1 - Motor bikes that sound like mad wasps, and people who start them up then rev them up to a high pitch, but don't go anywhere.
- 2 - Loud music being played without any consideration for the people around them, (ie builders) and car drivers who assault our ears with it while driving around.
- 3 - Dogs that are allowed to bark continually.

- 4 - All the emergency vehicles that start their sirens and then continue to blast it out at all times of the day and night.
- 5 - Ice cream vans that switch on their chimes but forget to switch it off and drive the full length of the street playing their irritating noise.

- 6 - The latest noise to be endured is the scrap men on their flat bed trucks who now have loud speakers fitted through which they shout, but still they blow the horns on the vehicle. Would it be possible for these people to shut up and give the rest of us some peace and quiet.
Newtonian
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6 - CARAVAN AND CAR Sponge wash, wax, clean doors/wheels, dry & shine tyres	£15.00
7 - MINI VALET Sponge wash, wax, clean doors/windows, inside & out, dry clean wheels, vacuum carpets & upholstery, boot, wax dash, shine tyres 4x4 or 7 Seater	£10.00 £12.00
8 - FULL VALET Sponge wash, wax, clean doors & windows, inside and out, wash seats and carpets, dry clean boot and wheels, wax dash, shine tyres, polish 4x4 or 7 Seater	£45.00 £50.00
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Charity "It's a Knockout"

Following the success of last years event Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland are once again hosting an "It's a Knockout" event to be held on Sunday 9th September from 11am - 5pm. We are looking for teams of 10 people to take up the challenge of a series of fun, foamy and inflatable games, which are reminiscent of the 1970's television show. Teamwork is the key to winning the most points and we have a prize for the team with the best team name. The Butterwick 'It's a Knockout Cup' plus a bottle of wine for each team member.

It's a Knockout is an extremely popular event and it is also a great day out for families too! The event goes ahead regardless of weather conditions, 9th September sensible clothes should be warm. Team registration fee of £100.00 (£10 per person) which pays for your personalised t-shirts that will include your team name on the back and entries will be received on a first come first served basis. This event is a fantastic team builder and lots of fun so don't delay! For a registration form Telephone: 01388 603003 or Email: claimcgregor@butterwick.org.uk

Ayclife GP Climbs 3 Peaks to Support Nepal Charity

Dr Martin Jones of Bewick Crescent Surgery is about to attempt the 'Three Peaks Challenge' climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowden which has to be completed within 24 hours. This involves nearly 25 miles of walking, with 10,000 feet of ascent, to top the highest summits in Scotland, England and Wales. Martin has been to teach health care workers in Nepal on 2 occasions, and he has been to extremely remote, mountainous regions, which can be up to 6 days walk from a hospital.



The nurses the charity employs have only 18 months initial training, and need help in developing their skills to work as GPs and midwives combined. The charity funds their training and pays their wages, as well as organising British GPs to travel to Nepal to teach and support them. The doctors pay all their own expenses, down to the food which is mainly rice and lentils. Most people have no electricity no sanitation and no running water in their houses, and they are chronically short of food. People become very sick from preventable illnesses like gastroenteritis, and education is just as important as medicines under the circumstances. He is hoping to raise some money for the charity PHASE Worldwide, and donations can be made at Bewick Crescent Surgery or Heighington surgery, Bewick Pharmacy or online at virginmoneygiving.com/DrMartinJones

Boyek Bounces Back

Shildon R & AC have had a very busy last few weeks of the race season, with runners being selected to represent their counties on the National stage. Gateshead International Stadium hosted the ESSA on 6th & 7th July, and with torrential rain leading up to the games, it was no wonder that there was a delay to the proceedings at the opening events. Sky HD were present to cover the track and field events and 5 athletes were delighted to qualify to represent both Durham and Cleveland. Young Henry Johnson made it to the Junior boys 800m final after coming 3rd in his heat. Although he was plagued with a chest infection he came in 6th in the final just outside his seasons best. Michael Bleasby had a hard race in the senior boys 800m, as the first lap was completed by the course leaders in 56 sec. However, Michael dug in and crossed the finish in 1.58 and was placed 6th. Amy Etherington seemed to give it all she had but ran out of steam in the Intermediate girls 1500m and was so disappointed not to make the final. Laura Walker sprinted her way in the senior girls

200m with 26.06, and Rachel Hughes jumped well in her heat for the triple jump with 11.43. Cameron Boyek, won his heat in the senior boys 1500m with 3.57.53, but his race tactics did not go to plan and he finished in 4th place in the final with 3.51.99. Still raring to go, the juniors made their way up to Gateshead Stadium again on Wednesday 11th July to compete in NEAL. There were some good seasons best performances from many of the group and Lizzie Cram pulled out 2.43.45 for Under 13 girls 800m. Amy Etherington ran with more gusto and blasted the Under 17 girls 800m in 2.24.79 to be placed 2nd. Only 4 athletes made the journey to Costello Stadium in Hull for the Northern Championships on 14th/15th July. Both Henry and Cameron qualified for their 800m finals and although it looked like Henry would be a medal winner after winning his heat, he came in a disappointing 5th place. Boyek was back on form and played winning his heat in a steady 2.03 and blasting the final to be Northern Champ with 1.52. Laura Walker was 4th in 100m and Rachel McHugh was 2nd in Triple jump with 11m 55.

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SOUND ADVICE TO CLUBS & PUBS

Dear Sir,
Why do DJ's and live performers insist on having their music so loud you can't hear the person next to you speaking?
It is quite common to go into a function and see people

shouting at each other above the noise of the music, actually yelling into people's ears to be heard. They come to socialise, to meet and talk with their friends and it is an intrusion for performers to turn up the volume to interfere with normal conversation. It is also a health risk and very damaging to the ears. This noise problem has been recognised and measures were being introduced to govern sound to a healthy decibel level which also allows people to converse. People have been warned and prosecuted for playing loud music to the annoyance of neighbours, but what about clubs who allow noise of 120 decibels and over? Can they be held to task for the damage they are causing to their staff and customers ears?

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MARLOWE REUNION

Don't forget Marlowe Hall Re-union for a good chat and catch up with your old school classmates. These were the first year to attend Marlowe Hall - Year 1 (1958) to Final Year taking GSE's. To be held at Cobblers Hall Pub on Friday 27th July at 7.30 p.m. Sheila, Edith & Trish.

Indoor Bowls Club Annual Presentation

Gordon Fletcher, of Gordon Fletcher and Sons Funeral Directors who sponsor the bowling club, presented prizes at the annual awards ceremony.
LADIES LEAGUE WINNERS:
2 Wood Triples: A Brown, Y Potter, E Robson, J Beswick, M Holmes
Pairs: A Brown & E Helm
3 Wood Triples: K Dixon, T Cowan, J Robinson, Y Potter, E Huggill
Starters League: K Varlett, P Stoddard
Mixed Triples: J Beswick, M Holmes, R Iverson, P Payne
Mixed 4s: A & W Brown, W & N Ward, D Howard, D Dodd
MEN'S LEAGUES WINNERS
Open Pairs: M Gleeson, T Wigglesworth, R Jones
Pairs: F Edwards, B Attwood, D Barron
Triples: D & J Quickmire, F Edwards, B Attwood, D Barron
Fours: C Robson, P Payne, K Dunning, V Robson, A Taylor
LADIES KNOCK OUTS
Fours: A Ritchie, M Wiggle, M Swainston, M Holmes
Triples: J Robinson, S Young, A Winwood
Pairs: A Brown, S Maughan
Singles: S Young
Mixed Triples: S Young, P Whittacker, W Duffy
Mixed Pairs: M Holmes, P Payne
60 plus 4s: T Mattimoe, J Priestley, J Rothgard, D Dodd
60 plus Triples: A Cooper, D Roberts, W Duffy, K Dunning
60 plus Pairs: K Hutchinson, D Barron
60 plus Singles: D Barron
MEN'S KNOCK OUTS
Fours: W Wallis, E Forster, I Robinson, A Metcalf
Triple: J Potter, J Palmer, R Metcalf
Pairs: D Quickmire, D Barron
Singles: N Cummings
Summer leagues are now well underway, winter leagues start in September. The club play at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. Why not come along and see what bowling is all about.

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Tickets at Leisure Centre Reception

Running Club News

The Hamsterley Forest 10K trail race in aid of Butterwick Hospice took place last Sunday and was well supported by Aycliffe Running Club. Sixteen runners turned out and the marshalling, led by Rob Nicholson, ensured everything went smoothly.

In the race itself all the runners coped well with the demanding course and enjoyed the challenge. First home for the club, back from injury, was Dez Fielden in 9th position 41m:10s. Followed by Tom Porter 22nd 44:36 and Matthew Heron 26th 44:55. Other results were as follows; Andrew Robertson 48th-47:22; Wendy Bake 101st - 51:41; Paul Upton 105th - 51:50; Lee Hoar 120th - 52:47; Cyd Upton 134 - 54:10; Gary Minns 135th - 54:14; Shelley McCormack 171st - 57:35; Tracy Warrior 179th - 58:24; Laura Knox 197th - 59:37; Jayne Heron 202nd - 59:57; John Embleton 209th - 60:54; Ray Todd 221st - 62:17; Ronnie Pluck in only



his second trail race; 222nd - 62:40

K9 Pursuits Doglympics

Please support us in our Doglympic Event, week commencing Monday 6th August. All Day Care and Training Dogs will have the opportunity to participate as well as members of the public with their dogs.

Please ring 01325 301177 for more details on how your dog can take part. All money raised will be used to buy Dogs Trust in Sadberge, Darlington environmental enrichment equipment.

We hope to buy things that are visually attractive to the dogs in kennels such as windmills and chimes etc. These will hang outside so that the dogs have different things to look out on to and provide them with mental stimulation.

We will also buy stimulating and interactive equipment for the puppy block, please support our event and raise money for less fortunate dogs and puppies.

Ray Parlour Stars at Aycliffe Dinner

Former Arsenal and Middlesbrough midfielder Ray Parlour is set to star at a fundraising event in Newton Aycliffe.



Dubbed "the Romford Pele" by Gunners team-mate Marc Overmars, the ex-England playmaker will appear at Aycliffe Workingmen's Club on Friday 14th September for a supper organised by the town's football club.

Entertainment on the night, hosted by Sky Sports News reporter David Craig, will include hilarious Scouse comedian Gary Skyner, plus the usual Sportsman's Evening fun and games.

Aycliffe FC general manager Dan Lewis, one of the organisers, said: "We've been looking for a high-profile speaker for our first big event and Ray fits the bill. "Gary Skyner is one of the best club comedians on the circuit, so it really does promise to be a cracking evening."

Parlour moved to Middlesbrough in 2004 and played over 60 games in the two years he was at the Club. He was released in 2007 and played for Hull City for his final season as a professional footballer.

Tickets for the Ray Parlour supper cost just £25 each and can be purchased online at Aycliffe FC's new designated

sales-only website, www.nafc-online.co.uk. Alternatively, call Dan Lewis on 07581 784726, Martin Walker on 07826 525907, Barry Waters on 07864 718243, or Paul McGeary on 07703 732342.

FIXTURES

Friday 20th July: Sunderland XI (H), 7.30pm
 Wednesday 25th July: Percy Main Ams (H), 7.30pm
 Saturday 28th July: Richmond Town (A), 3pm
 Wednesday 1st August: Gateshead Leam Rangers (A), 7.30pm
 Friday 3rd August: Harrogate Town (H), 7.30pm
 Saturday 11th August: Holker Old Boys (H), FA Cup EP1, 3pm
 Saturday 18th August: Marske United (A), League, 3pm
 www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Local Disabled Gymnast Trains to Compete in National Competitions



Kieran was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma in October 2010 a childhood cancer. He became confined to a wheelchair needing help with everything. He had full body scans and samples taken from the tumor to check it hadn't spread. A central line was fitted for chemotherapy to start after 1 week lasting for 6 months. He lost 10kgs, his hair and nearly his life.

On 31st March 2011 he had an amputation at just 12 years old. He had a further 8 months of chemo before remission. He's now having rehabilitation to get him walking with his prosthetic leg. During his remission he was chosen to carry the Olympic torch, but being Kieran he wanted to walk not use his wheelchair. This however would take strength, something Kieran did not have.

Athena Sports Academy of Newton Aycliffe saw Kieran's story in the Newton News and invited him along to build up his strength through gymnastics. Kieran realised that he could really succeed in gymnastics, and so after only a few weeks he entered his first gymnastics competition where he won a gold medal. But this was only the start for Kieran and he is now aiming high training for regional acro competitions with the hope of qualifying for the nationals.

He recently took part in a display at the Leisure Centre along with his very talented gymnastics partner Abbie Ramsey (aged 7) performing a cheeky and fun acro pairs routine.

Kieran has even progressed to mainstream classes pushing himself even more. Through all the work from coaches Sam Robson, Gerry Fuller and Jeff Wade, Kieran eventually built his strength up and was able

to stand up tall and carry the torch through Bishop Auckland on 17th June. He is an inspiration to all, never giving up, and he has overcome the biggest mountains to be where he is today. For more information on Athena Sports Academy please contact Sam on 01388 605946

24 HOUR MARATHON BIG BIKE CHALLENGE

Staff and Leisure Club members from the Eden Arms Hotel have been inspired by the Tour de France and are going to hold a bike challenge to raise funds for Butterwick House Children's Hospice as they take to the gym's exercise bikes and peddle for an amazing 24 hours.

Terri Carr-Wood, Events Co-ordinator says "we really wanted to do something different and challenging to spark interest in our fundraising for the children's hospice. Everyone involved is up for the challenge and when it gets tough in the early hours of the morning we'll just keep thinking of the children we are trying to help"

The event will be held from 10am Saturday 18th August until 10am Sunday 19th August in the hotel leisure centre and all are welcome to come along and support the peddlers and you can make a donation on the day or go to our Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/edenarmspeddlers.

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Call Diane 07876 133509
THURSDAY 11.00am, 1.00pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm St. Clares Church
Call Debbie 07980 063898

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Community Weight Loss Challenge Launched in Newton Aycliffe

The Arriba! Community Weight Loss Challenge is about to be launched for the very first time in Newton Aycliffe by local lady Jules Baxter.

Entertainment

FUN-n-BOUNCE Bouncy Castles for hire with and without slide, adult sizes available. All parties catered for, also available for indoor use. Tel 01325 307 445 or 07594 436 127
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The Challenge takes the participants' through a 6 week course, teaching them about different aspects of nutrition - related to weight loss. The club, to be held at Agnew Community Centre on a Thursday evening will provide an informal and friendly setting. The first class will launch on Thursday, 26th July, 2012 at 6.30pm. As well as a weekly weigh in and a different topic of learning each week, every participant has a one to one appointment so that their specific nutrition and diet problems can be addressed. As well as measuring weight, body fat % and hydration are looked at and monitored over the weeks so that participants get to see their statistics improving which really helps in terms of motivation. Arriba! Club Leader Jules says "This unique mix of education and motivation, with the added incentive of winning a cash prize is providing Newton Aycliffe's slimmer's with a solution that

works. I have been around people who have lost weight, improved their health and made new friends which is lovely to see - including myself. I became part of this because I saw how effective the challenge was" The 6 week Weight Loss Challenge costs £20 to join. The finishing prizes are based on percentage body weight lost and participants can win up to £100 (depending on number of participants joining the challenge!). The winner of the Challenge in Darlington was asked what's different to other clubs replied "I've tried all the main

slimming clubs and have found the Arriba! Club offered me the education, motivation, support and personal advice I needed to succeed." Margaret who has lost well over 2 stone since joining her first challenge in January commented "This is the best weight loss club I've been to, thanks for your ongoing support". Newton Aycliffe based Arriba! Leader Jules also offers 1:1 weight loss coaching for those that are unable to attend a class. You can contact Jules on 07966 968388 for details of future clubs or to book a 1:1 appointment.

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Woodham's Brilliant Concert

A packed College Concert recently marked the end of another successful year at Woodham Community Technology College.

From the word go, the audience at the Annual Summer Concert was enthralled with a diverse range of material from Woodham Instrumental Group, through a range of vocal and instrumental solo performances, to the college's well-established Samba Band and "Woodham Sound".

Former student and aspiring singer-actor, Nathan Elwick, returned to the college to captivate the audience with two vocal solos. Nathan is currently in rehearsals for "Miss Saigon" at the Gala Theatre in Durham, but took time out from his busy schedule to ensure he could perform at the concert.

Year 11 student Tom Bussey and William Kirton from Year 10 wowed the crowd with a performance of Four Chord Song by Axis of Awesome, a medley of popular songs that all follow the pop-punk chord progression. The twist to this particular performance was that whilst William was performing his half of the medley live on stage at Woodham, Tom's contribution was beamed in via video link from Camp Cody in New Hampshire, USA, where, along with three other Woodham students, he is participating in a month long American summer camp coaching a multitude of sports. The group flew out to Boston on Sunday 2nd July, but modern technology meant that Tom was able to be in two places at one time!



The Music Department have worked tirelessly this year to create musical opportunities within the college. Woodham's Got Talent earlier in the year provided a showcase for singers, musicians and dancers of a particularly high standard. The Summer Concert was the culmination of a year of hard work and the students enchanted the audience with a variety of musical items. There was something for everyone and there could not have been a bigger or better response to the concert - with a full house of enthusiastic students, parents, friends and staff.

Comperer of the concert

and Head of Geography, Katherine Barker, enthused, "It was marvellous to see the final result of what students have been working really hard for, we were very proud. One of the really exciting things was to see former student, Nathan Elwick return to sing. He is a superb role model for our students to follow and shows that you can live the dream"

The Music Department ended the year on a high note, following hot on the heels of the concert, the college played host to a sizzling band from New Orleans, "The Stooges", who performed for students from Woodham, Greenfield and local primary schools.

Pump up the Jam in Newton Aycliffe

Young people are being encouraged to get involved in a new competition for those who love skateboards, BMX bikes and micro-scooters.

Funding from Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership is being used to fund three local 'jams' to keep young people occupied during the school holidays.

The competitions will last between three and four hours, depending on numbers, and will be supported by Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, County Council Sport and Leisure Services and youth work staff from the County Council's One Point service.

Competitions are being held locally in the town park throughout the school holidays and young people are urged to get involved whether it's in the organisation, becoming a judge or participating themselves.

All those taking part will be given the opportunity to work towards an Asdan accreditation.

Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator, said: "We were

happy to support this event because the young people of Newton Aycliffe told us this type of thing is exactly the event they need across the summer to give them something to focus on. The fact they can work towards an accreditation at the same time is wonderful."

The first event 'Urban Games' which is part of a national Community Games programme to celebrate the Olympics will take place on Thursday, July 26 and will see DYNAMIX lead a scooter, BMX, skateboard and in-line skating event.

Baseball coaching with the Newton Aycliffe Spartans, On the Ball Football camps, break dancing workshops with KDANZ and a climbing wall provide the entertainment.

£5,605 funding from GAMP's budget has been match funded by Durham County Council's One Point Service, Community Games funding and the County Council's Sport & Leisure Services.

Gardening Problem for the Elderly and Infirm

Dear Sir,
As an Aycliffe resident born and bred I wish to express my opinion on gardening for disabled pensioners.

My disabled Mother lives in Travellers Green and her gardening has always been done by myself. When the council's choice of landlords came to take over the duties my Mother and myself were disgusted at the quality of their service.

To be honest, it created more work to rectify their poor work, so I told them not to bother. As the months went on Mam's neighbours also complained and some also

asked them not to bother. I still take pride in doing my Mothers garden - maybe a little pay back for all she's done for me. I also take pride helping her neighbours in their gardens, and this is my point.

I'm in total agreement with others at their disgust in the landlord's refusal to do certain pensioners gardens but I also feel strongly that as residents, neighbours and family members, if more of us took a little time to help others, we wouldn't be so reliant on the poor gardening service offered.

Christopher Race

Congratulations

Riley James Preston



Happy 1st Birthday
To a very special boy.
Love from Mam, Dad, Big Brother Owen and Mason

Riley James Preston



Happy 1st Birthday
To a very special Nephew and Cousin from Uncle Gary and Cousin Charlotte in Australia

Sits Wanted

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MY NAME is Jamie and I am a 16 year old school leaver looking for any part time work. I am honest and hard working. Tel 01325 311854

In Memoriam

ARNOLD BENNETT 16/5/1928 to 18/7/2011. When we were married they told us we were one, but they told us what to do when half of one is gone. What do you do with a life or half a will to care? What do you do with half a heart now the other half is gone? You were the other half of me, a heart linked to my own. What do I do with half a life, now I am on my own? You gave me years of happiness then came sorrow and tears, but you left me beautiful memories I will treasure through the years. My love forever, Violet

ARNOLD BENNETT 18/7/2011. I lost a Dad with a heart of gold, how much I miss him can never be told. He shared my troubles and helped me along, if I follow in his footsteps I can never go wrong. He was a dad so very rare, content in his home and always there. On Earth he toiled, in Heaven he rests. God bless you Dad, you were one of the best. Love and miss you always Dad. Sheila, Billy and all the family

ARNOLD BENNETT One year past without you here. The happy memories held so dear. The Bennett name remaining strong, don't you worry Grandad, I'll make sure it lives on xx

THOMAS STEEL Died 22nd July 2011. A year has passed. Always in our hearts and thoughts. Miss you. Love, Leigh, Kelly, Andy, Karvey and Emmie

Jo-Anne Lumley



Congratulations on attaining BSc (Hons) Sports Therapy Degree at Teesside University. Love from Mam, Andrew, Dylan, Haydn, Isaac and all the family. Well done!

Christy Gibson

Happy 21st Birthday Sweetheart

Hope you have a lovely day, we are so proud of you. All our love, Mam and Dad xxxxx

Happy 21st Birthday Christy

Have a lovely day. We love and cherish you. Love, Nana and Grandad xx

Happy 21st Birthday Christy

Enjoy your day. Wish we could be there with you. Lots of love, Auntie Noreen and Uncle Jay xxx

Happy 21st Birthday Christy

Wish I was there with you. Lots and lots of love from Keaton xxx

CHRISTY GIBSON Happy 21st birthday. Hope you had a fantastic time. Love from Paul xxx

CHRISTY GIBSON Happy 21st birthday. Love and cuddles from Carrie, Lily (the dog), Paige and Shorty xxx

SAM LEWIS TELFORD Happy 18th birthday. Love and best wishes always, Gran and all the family

SARAH BARION (20th July 2012). Congratulations and best wishes on your 21st birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Paul, Grandma and Grandad

SARAH BARION 20th July 2012. Congratulations on your 21st birthday Sarah. Love, Auntie Kath, Uncle Mick and family xxxxx

THOMAS KNOW Happy 2nd birthday to our special little monkey. Lots of love and big kisses. Mummy, Daddy, big Brother James xxx

THOMAS KNOW Happy 2nd birthday to our special Grandson Thomas. Lots of love, Hugs and kisses, Granda and Grandad xxx

THOMAS KNOW Happy 2nd birthday Mr Thomas. Lots of big kisses, Uncle Adam, Auntie Kim and Eve Pants xxxxx

THOMAS KNOW A happy 2nd birthday Thomas. Love you. Great Gran Lily xxx

THOMAS KNOW Happy 2nd birthday. Lots of love, Jayne, Dan, Luke and Jake xxx

SUSAN JARDIN Happy 30th birthday. Love and best wishes from Mam, Dad and Mark

SUSAN JARDIN Happy 30th birthday Mam. Love you, from Jessica and Layla

HAILES - WADE David and Kerri congratulations and best wishes for the future to you both on your Wedding Day. Love from Mum, Dad, Gavin, Joanne and Thomas xxx

Harry West



Happy 1st Birthday to our gorgeous son Harry. Lots of love, snuggles and cuddles, Mummy and Daddy xxx

Harry David West



Happy 1st Birthday To our beautiful Grandson. Lots of love, hugs and kisses. Nana and Grandad xxx

Happy 1st Birthday Harry

Lots of love from Uncle Dan xxx

Happy 1st Birthday Harry

Lots of love and kisses, Auntie Nicola, Uncle John and Cousins Becky, Adam and Tom xxx

Amy-Jade Clements



Happy 13th Birthday Lots of love to you. Mum, Dad and Sarah xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

LUKE TELFORD Happy 21st birthday. Love and best wishes, Dad, Mam, Graham and Sammie xxx

LUKE TELFORD Happy 21st birthday. Love and best wishes always. Gran and all the family xxx

JOHN FLACK 20th July. Happy 70th birthday. Have a great time at your party. Wife Betty, Joanne, Margaret, Grandchildren. We all love you xxx

JOHN FLACK Happy 70th birthday. We will be over for your party. Arlie, Harry and family

RILEY JAMES PRESTON Happy birthday, 1 year old today. Lots of love and kisses from Grandma and Grandad xxx

Sharna



Happy 40th Birthday 23rd July 2012



Our little monkey has grown up! Love from Mam and Dad

Laila



Happy 1st Birthday Love from Mummy and Daddy xx

Laila Clegg



Happy 1st Birthday 19th July 2012 All my love Granda Kenny xxx

HUTCHINSON Anne-Marie. Happy birthday to my Wife. 50 and still fit(ish). Love, Peter HUTCHINSON Anne-Marie. Have a great 50th Anne-Marie. Enjoy Amsterdam. Love, Viv, Steve, Julie and Richard HUTCHINSON Anne-Marie. Have a great 50th birthday enjoy your weekend away. All our love, Michele, Alicia and Grace xxx

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Two Former Woodham Students in Olympics



With the imminent arrival of the Olympic games comes the news that two former students from Woodham Community Technology College have been selected to represent Great Britain. Angela Winstanley-Smith has been selected for the Water Polo squad, and Jason Steele for the Football squad.

Angela is shown with fellow Water Polo player, Woodham student and Olympic torchbearer, Richie Howe, after her recent visit to the school.

Both will be in the Great Britain squad at the Opening Ceremony on July 27th. Their selection coincides with the College launching its Sports Academy which provides high quality coaching opportunities for students to emulate the achievements of such former students.

Aycliffe Athlete in 11 Hour Triathlon

Alex Lineton, who is a member of Aycliffe Running Club recently competed in the Outlaw Triathlon in Nottingham. The Outlaw is an ironman distance race consisting of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride followed by a full marathon, all of which had to be completed in less than 17 hours.

When the swim race started at 6am the rowing lake was awash with over a 1000 athletes which eventually spread out as everybody found their own pace. Alex completed the swim in 1:18:48 and then prepared for the cycling stage.

The bike ride was hard as the wind picked up after 20 miles. The route on the whole was very rural and took in a lot of villages to the south of Nottingham but Alex was pleased to

finish this section and get off the saddle after 5:48:07. Finally, a small matter of running a marathon! By now the wind was even stronger as the route took the runners round an exposed lake. The support was fantastic and the finishing chute was really something to savour. Alex was so thrilled he grabbed his daughter from his wife and ran the last 100m with her, crossing the finishing line in a run time of 4:16:29. The whole triathlon took Alex 11 hours 32 minutes 26 seconds, finishing 186th and was 16th in his age category.



Superb Show by Gymnast Club



Athena Sports Academy opened in September 2011 and is predominately a gymnastics club based at both Newton Aycliffe and sunnydale Leisure Centres.

In this short time Athena has attracted nearly 150 members with classes for ages 3+ in various disciplines for different abilities.

Recently some of the gymnasts participated in a display in the Leisure Centre putting on four routines including tumbling, a special needs display, a wheelchair mixed pair acro routine and a mainstream acro routine.

All the gymnasts worked very hard to put on this Show which received excellent feedback. Thanks were passed to the coaches who put in many hours of voluntary work to support all the gymnasts in their goals and ambitions.

Athena offers classes on

weekends and weekdays both at Sunnydale and Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre as well as up and coming summer camps through the

summer holidays. For more information on classes or to book a place on the summer camps please contact Sam on 01388 605956.

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