Labour Win West Ward By-Election:

Martin Ashcroft has been returned in the By-Election for West Ward held last Thursday. The results were:

Martin Ashcroft Labour 333 votes (59%),
Paul Symons UKIP 94 votes (17%),
Total votes cast 567
Turnout 13.4%.

Labour fielded one of their best candidates in Martin Ashcroft, as moderate, progressive young and enthusiastic. In a lower turnout Labour increased its share of the vote.

Martins released the following statement: “I would like to thank all the people of West Ward for giving me this opportunity to serve them which I will do to the best of my ability. I will regularly attend meetings and speak up for the West Ward and the Town.

Thank you for your support and I will continue to promote the needs of the people of West Ward.

I look forward to serving you at the ballot box.”

Call Gary on 01325 589011

ARE YOU MAD ABOUT FOOTBALL?

Then why not come and see how the League at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex?

We have three Leagues which run on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Games Start at 6pm – last kick off 10pm. Prizes and trophies will be won at end of each season.

Play your game and enjoy a nice refreshing drink in our comfortable friendly bar while watching your favourite sport on one of our large screen TV’s. Anyone interested please contact Gordon on 07557 387460.

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If you are looking for something different to do during the school Summer Holidays why not try The Young Entertainers Wacky Workshop and have a really great fun time.

They are at the Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon, Wednesdays 5th and 12th August, from 10am to 3pm. 1st entry to Centre.

The spokesperson for the event said: “A ‘Day of Playing Mad, crazy games, you’ll meet new friends and have a great day of fun, making laughter too.

So if you are aged 8 to 15 years and you think this sounds like something you’d like to do give us a call and get more information. Bring a friend bring two, but don’t forget to bring a packed lunch.”

Ring 01325 313363 or 01388 774838 now to book a place.
FAMILY DAY TRIPS

Holiday Trips for families £4 a seat are as follows:

**FAMILY DAY TRIPS**

- **Day Trip** at Silverdale House on Tuesday from 9.30am until 12.30pm or 3.00pm. Payment accepted at Wilkinsons bus stop) at 10.45am. Ring Dorothy on 01325 308094 (leave your number if not available).
- Leaving Eskdale Place Layby at 10.30am and St. Clare’s - South Shields on Wednesday 19th August.
- Leaving Eden Camp, Aycliffe by coach at 10.30am and St. Clare’s - South Shields on Tuesday 25th August.
- Leaving Simpasture Court Layby at 8.45am and St. Clare’s - South Shields on Thursday 27th August.
- Leaving Horndale Park at 8.45am and St. Clare’s - South Shields on Saturday 29th August.
- Leaving Eden Camp, Aycliffe by coach at 10.30am and St. Clare’s - South Shields on Tuesday 2nd September.

**THE TURBINIA**

- **Saturday Night Live**
  - The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge
  - Sat 1st August - “7 Sins”
  - Gig PB Review: “First time for me to catch the ‘7 Sins’ at Morton’s Big Club. I really enjoyed the band, a great selection of rock covers from Tom Petty, Free, Kings of Leon, Def Leppard, Bad Company, Kaizer Chiefs, Simple Minds. The standard of playing was excellent, Bill Brown on rhythm and lead vocals has a great tone to his voice and is a great front man who likes to get the audience involved with his jokes and banter. The other members play to a very high standard, lead guitar, bass and a cracking drummer that captures the feel and sound of the the drummers that had crafted the songs that they covered. All in all a great night. Now if they are a new one for you too, make a point of catching them again. They don’t need gimmicks as the quality of playing was excellent as was the sound quality. So a fantastic night with Rainbow, Free, Doobie Brothers and Crack of Dawn.”
  - For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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**TOON BUS**

- **Honest John** has helped keep the price of transport down for Newcastle supporters by subsidising the bus cost for home games. The bus picks up from the Turbinia, Iron Horse, Big Club and DL5 Bar. Everyone is welcome and asked to contact Colin for times.
- The cost is £10 return for Adults and £5 for Under 19s. The first game is Sunday 9th August – ring 07561 373 517.

**W.A.S.P.S. News**

- The next social evening for W.A.S.P.S Residents’ Association will be on Friday 7th August 2015 at 7.45pm in Simpasture Court.
- There will be a Quiz, light hearted anecdotes and Bingo for entertainment.
- For those attending the trip to Eden Camp, a reminder that is on Tuesday 4th August with the coach leaving Simpasture Court at 9am. There will be pick-ups at the British Legion Club and Horncliffe if needed.
- For more information contact Alan Lowe on 07754 094946.

**Gardner by Name - Garden Design & Supplies by Trade**

- One of the latest businesses to open on Aycliffe Business Park is Ray Gardner a landscape garden designer and supplier of garden products.
- Ray spent his childhood living in West Cornforth and attended school in Spennymoor. He began his working life as a greengrocer at Woodham Golf club in 1987. What working there he also attended Durham College of Agriculture and Horticulture.
- In 1996 he decided on a change of career and Ray Gardner Landscapes was born. He then began his passion for designing and building domestic gardens both grand and small, which he has been doing ever since.
- In 2004 Ray moved into the Woodham area of Newton Aycliffe and continues to live there with his wife and two children. With most of his work being in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding areas this could not be a more convenient place to live and provide his services to the community.
- While operating “Ray Gardner Landscapes Design and Build” Ray found it increasingly hard to source high and consistent quality landscaping and gardening materials locally so he decided to open Gardner’s Yard with the aim of supplying the very best products at affordable prices, enabling the public to create beautiful gardens. With decorative gravels in various sizes and colours, bulk solutions for decoration or safe play areas, postcrete, cement, fencing products, sand’s, slates, compost and top soil, all available for quick delivery - just some of the products available from stock.
- Ray told Newton News his business is increasing thanks to adverts in Newton News: “We are looking to increase our product range with items such as Logs, Kindling, Firelighters, Winter Path Salt and Grit for the Autumn and Winter season. We are also planning to offer Christmas Trees and Holly Wreaths for sale for the festive season”.

**Tomorrow’s News**

- **Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe**
- **IRON HORSE** presents
- **Indie and Brit Pop band**
- **“METIS”**
- **Friday 7th August 2015**

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- Mobile: 07738 066723
HORNDALE RESIDENTS

Our next meeting is this Wednesday 5th at Aycliffe Evangelical Church Ladybower starting at 6pm with refreshments from 5.45.

We will discuss the fabulous events we have held over the past months and look forward to the coming months. Also in attendance will be your local Police team, a rep from Livin and local councillors. These meetings are a great way to meet and discuss any concerns or ideas you may have.

So why not join us and help make our good neighbourhoods even better places to live.

Philip Clark
Chair

Impressive ACORN Fun Day

Newton Aycliffe Residents Association ACORN enjoyed a fabulous animal fun day on Friday 24th July.

Local residents and others gathered on Christopher Walk to enjoy a day of entertainment involving Farmyard animals, Pony riding, Hook a duck, Inflatable slide, Bouncy castle and Fairground rides.

Professor Nincompoop provided entertainment, magic, Balloons and dancing. The man I call the Pied Piper of mirth had children in fits of the giggles, running around burning off excess energy and generally creating mayhem.

Meanwhile our friend Harry Potty was creating masterpieces of art on the faces of young children. Queues of people were evident from poor Harry sitting down till he finally finished half an hour after everyone else.

This event was the fourth annual event which has been held and continues to be a great success not only for local residents but those people who come to entertain us.

Volunteers young and adult put a lot of time and effort into organising the events for which ACORN are acclaimed and are a real credit to our community.

This year we were particularly encouraged by the contributions to our Tombola, profits of which are to be shared with a cancer charity.

ACORN will be holding a further outdoor event on the 24th August which will include a Teddy Bears Picnic. I would like to thank all involved for making this a superb event.

Ken Robson on behalf of ACORN Residents Association

Alexis Nails

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Thirteen year old Alivia Hoys from Woodham Academy, posted a picture she drew of the actor Stephen Amell (who plays the Arrow on TV) to his Fan Art Friday page. Stephen then chooses so many pictures to go on his Fan Art wall and Alivia’s drawing was one of pictures chosen. Stephen has 3.6 million followers on Facebook and Alivia’s artwork has received over 3,000 likes. It’s not very often a person from Newton Aycliffe gets recognised this way and Alivia is so happy.

Phil Wilson, Member of Parliament for Sedgefield is conducting a survey of local charities as new regional and national reports are launched this week around the income to the voluntary sector and its future sustainability. Government funding to the voluntary and community sector has been falling over the last five years in all regions apart from London and the South East according to NYCO (National council for voluntary organisations). A new review by NCVO, out this week made projections pointing to a £4.8bn annual shortfall in the voluntary and community sector income over the next 7 years.

A report by Northern Rock Foundation (Third Sector Trends) also launched this week, highlighted that charities and community organisations located in the poorest areas of the region were more than four times as likely to have lost significant levels income in the last two years (30%) compared with the richest areas (7%).

Phil Wilson MP says, “I believe in strong communities. The charity sector plays a significant role in building strong communities. It is disappointing to see in areas of most need, the vital support and services provided by the charity sector are being negatively impacted by funding cuts and changes in government policy. At a time when they are needed more than ever we need to look at how we support the sector.”

Phil goes onto explain “I have launched a survey of local charities as I am keen to look at how I can support the sector better. It has never been more important to have people on the ground in our communities, providing activities and supporting those in need. We must therefore do all we can to protect these organisations and ensure they find sustainable ways of continuing the vital services they provide.

Over the next 6 months I hope to have regular dialogue with the sector on various issues from funding to Europe to governance and using social media. The survey is the beginning of this. I am also hoping to get out and visit the many groups and organisations in my constituency.”

Why not Join “Newt’s Kids Club”?

and enter the FREE draw to win an Ipod Nano

Newton News has been a part of the Newton Aycliffe community for over 60 years and are now setting up a “Kids Club” with an Ipod Nano to give away to one lucky winner. To be in with a chance of winning simply join “Newt’s Kids Club”. This will also entitle you to other future offers and special discounts around Newton Aycliffe.

All members will receive a “Newt’s Kids Club” Membership Card and be automatically entered into future competitions with some wonderful prizes and opportunities for all members.

NEWT’S LATEST OFFERS:

OAK LEAF SPORTS COMPLEX invite members to bring their parent/s to the Oak Leaf Complex restaurant. Members will be entitled to a FREE child’s meal when an adult meal is purchased from specials board (offer exclusive snacks; membership card must be shown; offer for first 50 members, valid until 31st August 2015).

10 and Over will receive a Mr Men book, a bottle of water and a piece of fruit. 10 and Over will receive a Mr Men book, a bottle of water and a piece of fruit.

Do claim yours, you will need to join “Newt’s Club”, then take your membership card to the information desk at the Newton Aycliffe Tesco store.

Name: ____________________________
Address: ___________________________
School: ____________________________
D.O.B: ____________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________

Email Contact: Send your information to Newton Press, Blue Bridge Centre, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DS or hand in to Walkers Butchers (Simpasture), or Youngs (Town Centre), or visit our website www.newtonnews.co.uk/kids to join online.

80% REDUCTION IN YOUTH OFFENDING

The number of young people committing first time offences in County Durham has fallen by more than 80 per cent, a new report reveals.

County Durham Youth Offending Service’s (CDYOS) Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 states that in 2014/15, 193 young people entered the Youth Justice System for the first time.

The figure represents an 8.1 per cent reduction in comparison to the previous year and an overall decrease of 82.9 per cent in the past seven years.

The plan, which will be presented to Durham County Council’s Cabinet on Wednesday, 15 July, also shows that only 20 custodial sentences were handed out to young people in 2014/15 — a reduction of 20 per cent compared to 2013/14.

In addition, last year also saw a 44.8 per cent reduction in the number of nights young people spent in remand centres last year.

In 2014/15, there were 354 remand bed nights recorded, compared to 641 in 2013/14. CDYOS’ other success in 2014/15 included ensuring that every young person leaving custody had appropriate accommodation waiting for them and the development of a range of resources to address young people’s communication needs.

Cllr Osie Johnson, Durham County Council’s cabinet member for children and adult services, said: “It is essential that we work with young people at the first stages of their involvement with the youth justice system to ensure it is not the starting point for further anti-social or criminal behaviour for them and their families.

“County Durham Youth Offending Service’s achievements over the past year show how effective we have been at doing this with the support and cooperation of the police and other agencies.

“Our Youth Justice Plan for 2015/17 sets out how we will build on this work over the next coming months and years.”

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The Council, on 25/07/15 made an Order under Section 60 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1991, amended, to close to all vehicular traffic of a 6km length of Tram Lane from the junction with the B1207 (Hollin Hill) roundabout in Newton Aycliffe to enable new drainage to be installed. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 03.08.15 to 02.08.16 inclusive with the temporary closure under the previous Order being extended for a further 18 months. The maximum duration of the temporary closure under the Order is 18 months and is required from 03.08.15 to 02.08.16 inclusive with the temporary closure under the previous Order being extended for a further 18 months.

Ken Robson
NEGOTIATIONS OVER AMBITIOUS DEVOLUTION PLANS THAT WILL DRIVE GROWTH AND CREATE JOBS IN THE NORTH EAST HAVE TAKEN AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD.

Following a positive meeting with Communities Secretary Greg Clark MP, members of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) are looking forward to detailed discussions with government on how a devolution deal for the North East will look.

At the heart of NECA’s ambitions is a need to capitalise on the area’s existing strengths – in automotive and advanced manufacturing, financial services, offshore engineering and the creative industries – and in particular to push export-led growth.

Key aspects that are covered in NECA’s proposals will focus on areas including investment in the area’s workforce, the need for fiscal devolution, a regional body to oversee transport and reform of public services.

Cllr Simon Henig, Chair of the North East Combined Authority, said: “Following a very positive meeting with the Secretary of State we are looking forward to developing an ambitious devolution deal for our area. This is an exciting, once-in-a-generation opportunity for the North East to take control of its own destiny and to lead on key decision making that will not only boost our economic fortunes but will also improve the lives of people living, working and studying here. As part of our plans for growth we intend to focus sharply on opportunities to increase trade, innovation and investment.

In particular we are keen to promote export opportunities and secure long-term investment that will build confidence and stability in our local economy.

“In order to achieve our ambitions it is essential that our plans are underpinned by an ambitious and effective devolution deal.”

As part of the more detailed discussions on a devolution deal for the area, members of the combined authority will also consider appropriate models of governance.

Linzi Nicholls from Lifeline Community Action (LCA) successfully co-ordinated a team of enthusiastic volunteers when they bag packed in Asda on Saturday 25th July 2015. Linzi and her team raised a staggering £1050.04 for local people who have struggled financially and been living well below the breadline or people who have suffered ill health or disability over the past year and are in desperate need of a break.

LCA an Aycliffe charity fundraiser every year to make sure people with the greatest needs get a break for a few days away just to relieve some of the stress and give people time to recover and feel more able to cope when they return home.

Asda’s Community Life Colleague Gemma Purdy congratulated Linzi and her team on being ‘exceptionally well behaved’ and later describing them as ‘a fantastic bunch of children’. Mr Wilson, congratulating him on his recent re-election, after having a tour of the school, Mr Wilson congratulated the children on being ‘exceptionally well behaved’ and later describing them as ‘a fantastic bunch of children’. Mr Wilson was impressed with the creativity throughout the school and said ‘It was encouraging to see such a wonderful school in action.”

Children at Stephenson Way Academy were clearly inspired by Mr Wilson’s visit and his encouragement for them to work hard and follow their dreams, with one Year 5 pupil commenting “I’ve never thought of being an MP before, but I want to help people and communities like Mr Wilson does.” Stephenson Way Academy is very appreciative of Mr Wilson’s inspirational visit, and have extended him an open invitation to revisit the school in the future.
Newton Aycliffe FC begin the new Northern League season on Saturday 8th August with a home fixture against current champions Marske. Before the game, League Chairman Mike Amos will be welcomed to Newton Aycliffe by our Mayor, our national sport.

Meanwhile Sports Club members will be able to enjoy even more football in the clubhouse now that BT Sport has been available for £100/ £60. Admission is £6 adults, £4 concessions. Season tickets are available for £100/ £60. Kick off for the game will be at 3:00pm at Moore Lane Park.

 Residents are being warned to be on their guard against rogue traders after a string of reports of doorstep crime. Up to 10 incidents have been reported to Durham County Council’s consumer protection team and police in the last few weeks. Most have featured householders being offered bogus property improvement services, such as roofing and garden work – also known as fair weather crimes. In some of the cases victims have reported that the rogue traders have driven them to the bank to withdraw cash. The incidents have taken place throughout the county and victims have been of all ages, including elderly and vulnerable people and women living alone.

Victims have reported handing over between £300 and £2,000 for the work, as well as jewellery. Nearly every case has resulted from cold-calling.

Rogue traders will typically call uninvited at people’s homes and offer goods and services on the doorstep. More often than not, they exert extreme pressure on householders, charge inflated prices and display poor standards of workmanship.

The summer months often see a spike in these types of incidents as many people think about having work done around the house. This is when rogue traders are at their busiest and, in many cases, they will target the elderly and vulnerable. Trading standards officers from the consumer protection team are now calling on friends, relatives, neighbours and carers to look out for others in their community. Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: “We are advising everyone to be on their guard against rogue traders and we would also ask residents to keep an eye out for any suspicious roofing or gardening work taking place at the homes of elderly or vulnerable family members and neighbours.

“Rogue traders have a significant detrimental effect on the most vulnerable in our society and our officers will take robust action against anyone found to be taking advantage of people in this manner.”

The consumer protection team has issued the following advice:

• DON’T accept the services of uninvited, doorstep callers.
• DO seek recommendations from friends and family.
• DO try and use members of a trader’s scheme, for example Durham County Council’s Registered Trader Scheme.
• DO call the police or trading standards if you suspect that rogue traders are operating in your community.

Rogue trader activity can be reported by calling the Consumer Helpline on 0345 04 05 06 or police on 101. In an emergency, always call 999. Information can also be sent to doorstep@durham.gov.uk, although this should not be used for reporting incidents.

For more information about Durham County Council’s registered trader scheme visit www.durham.gov.uk/registeredtraders
Fun Friday Films continue at ST. Clare’s on the 31st July when the animated comedy ‘THE BOOK OF LIFE’ is shown on the big screen. This film is jam packed with favourite pop music and features a young boy who is struggling to follow his dreams or fulfill those of his family.

THE BOOK OF LIFE encourages us to celebrate the past while looking forward to the future. Please come along and support this recently reviewed ‘great value film club’, which welcomes everyone warmly and with sweets and ice-cream too!

Following that on Friday 7th August we celebrate the brilliant boy AND girl football teams on our town with the film The Unbeatables which see's Amadeo reign as the supreme unbeatable until he is challenged by an unlikely opponent. Both films begin at 2pm with doors open from 1.30pm to register and fill up with drinks, crisps, sweets, popcorn and ice-lollies - a real weekend treat. We welcome mam’s / gran’s / dads and carers to stay and enjoy a welcome sit down - you are allowed an ice-cream too! Children from 5 years can be left in the care of the children’s team and collected at 3.30pm.

St. Clare’s is situated opposite the entrance to the Thames Centre - if you require any further information please contact the children’s team leader Helen McCormick on 319002.

Newton Aycliffe Poundstretcher ceased trading on Wednesday 29th July and the Store Manager Dan Dixon and his team wish to thank all their loyal customers over the past 15 years. During his 5 year management they have created close bonds with their customers and are truly grateful for all the kind words and support received. Your closest Poundstretcher store is at Tindale, Bishop Auckland

Residents at Rose Lodge Care Home, Cobblers Hall, are very proud to say they have friends in high places. The ladies and gents were thrilled after receiving a thank you card from Buckingham Palace after sending their best wishes on the birth of HRH Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge on 2nd May 2015.

To honour the birth of the new Princess, residents wrote messages of best wishes and luck to HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in a card and posted it to the happy couple along with a photo of residents and staff so they could see the faces of their well-wishers. The card reads: “The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge thank all the residents at Rose Lodge Care Home for the very kind card sent on the occasion of the birth of their daughter, Princess Charlotte. Their Royal Highnesses have been overwhelmed by all the wonderful messages they have received and send you their warmest thanks and best wishes.

Rose Lodge, owned by care provider Countrywide Care Homes, offers residential and specialist dementia care to the elderly and was named as the 7th highest recommended care homes in the North East in a poll by carehome.co.uk last year.

Care Manager Nicola Wheatley said: “Our residents were absolutely thrilled when we received a reply to our card and it’s been quite the talking point among residents, families and visitors. It’s not every day that you receive a letter from Buckingham Palace!”

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Oak Leaf

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**PARTNERSHIP COMPLETES LANDMARK FINTECH WORK**

Business law firm Endeavour Partnership has completed a landmark project which could revolutionise the way entrepreneurs and investors take advantage of alternative finance markets.

The company has created a new legal framework for Aycliffe financial technology firm Growth Capital Ventures to give investors the right to be involved in shareholder votes, bringing them a voice without being prevented from voting due to the size of their holding. Smaller investors the right to be involved in investment to growing businesses.

The documents are designed to give smaller investors the same grades protections as their larger, more experienced counterparts. As well as enabling smaller investors to have a voice, it is expected to have an impact on growing businesses.

The documents also give smaller investors the right to be involved in shareholder votes, giving them a voice without holding the business back, should they not wish to be actively involved. They are also aimed at striking a fair balance between entrepreneurs and investors and ensuring that business leaders can operate without the hindrance of over-interference from investors.

Craig Peterson, director of London and Aycliffe based Growth Capital Ventures, said: "Having previously only worked with big city law firms, it’s fantastic to have found a legal partner on our doorstep with the capacity and expertise to handle such a complex assignment. The firm’s commitment to developing relationships and its realistic cost structure are what really set it apart from the competition. Endeavour are a valued strategic partner and will provide legal support on all equity investments made through our GrowthFunders platform."

Nick Tunley, partner at Endeavour, said: "This was an interesting piece of work for Endeavour. We have an experienced corporate and commercial team and it’s good to support an innovative ‘Fintech’ business like Growth Capital Ventures. We are looking forward to working together on some exciting deals as over the next few years".

As well as its strong corporate and commercial sector, Endeavour Partnership also advises regional, national and global businesses on a range of legal matters including, company litigation, commercial property, employment and corporate recovery. Other services, which span corporate and commercial law and cover both the private and public sectors, include company formation, banking and finance, company registration, mergers and acquisitions and employment issues.

Research by the independent Electoral Commission indicates that across Great Britain, recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those that have lived at the same address for a long time. The research showed that 94 per cent of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered compared to 40 per cent of people who have lived at an address for less than one year.

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Craig Peterson, director of London and Aycliffe based Growth Capital Ventures, said: "Having previously only worked with big city law firms, it’s fantastic to have found a legal partner on our doorstep with the capacity and expertise to handle such a complex assignment. The firm’s commitment to developing relationships and its realistic cost structure are what really set it apart from the competition. Endeavour are a valued strategic partner and will provide legal support on all equity investments made through our GrowthFunders platform."

Nick Tunley, partner at Endeavour, said: "This was an interesting piece of work for Endeavour. We have an experienced corporate and commercial team and it’s good to support an innovative ‘Fintech’ business like Growth Capital Ventures. We are looking forward to working together on some exciting deals as over the next few years”.

As well as its strong corporate and commercial sector, Endeavour Partnership also advises regional, national and global businesses on a range of legal matters including, company litigation, commercial property, employment and corporate recovery. Other services, which span corporate and commercial law and cover both the private and public sectors, include company formation, banking and finance, company registration, mergers and acquisitions and employment issues.

Research by the independent Electoral Commission indicates that across Great Britain, recent home movers are far less likely to be registered than those that have lived at the same address for a long time. The research showed that 94 per cent of people who have been at their property for more than sixteen years will be registered compared to 40 per cent of people who have lived at an address for less than one year. Continued.

The same research indicates that while almost 95 per cent of outright home owners are registered, this is the case for only 63 per cent of private tenants.

Kay Jenkins, head of English regions at the Electoral Commission said: “The annual canvass is an opportunity for people to easily check whether they’re registered.”

“It’s essential for a healthy democracy that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to, and for those who need to registering is now easier than ever with the online system of registration.”

“If you have changed address in the last year, it’s particularly likely that you will need to register at your new address, so check the form as soon as it arrives.”

Any residents who have any questions can contact the elections team on 03000 261 212 or email electoralservices@durham.gov.uk.

Register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. To be eligible to register to vote in England a person must be aged 16 or over (a person may register to vote at 16, but may not vote until they are 18).
Playday Nursery held their annual graduation ceremony on Thursday 16th July for the children who are leaving to go to school. The children performed a selection of their favourite songs for their parents and described what they would like to do when they grow up. They were then presented with a certificate and present by Linda Watts, Nursery Manager. We would like to wish all who are moving onto their next stage of their learning lots of luck in the future.

**Playday Graduation**

**Premature Death & Smoking**

Dear Sir,

I refer to the article on the County Council’s Award for reducing smoking and in particular to what I believe to be a gross misrepresentation of the facts.

In the referenced article, Alison Cox the director of cancer prevention at Cancer Research UK is quoted as having stated, “Smoking is the largest cause of premature deaths in the UK and remains the public health challenge of our generation.”

According to Government Statistics there have been in excess of 7,850,000 legal abortions in England and Wales between 1969 and 2014. These cannot be said to be other than premature deaths, whether sanctioned by an Act of Parliament, or not.

There being no doubt as to the actual cause of death, even the most zealous anti-smoking campaigner cannot blame smoking, even, secondary smoking!

Can the Anti-Smoking Lobby prove that smoking alone caused a greater number of premature deaths in the same period? I would therefore respectfully request that the anti-smoking lobby stop from perpetuating and using incorrect facts in their future campaigns.

It is illegal for public funded bodies to mislead the public, whether with accurate data or not. Further, if the National Health Service were committed to reducing the number of premature deaths in the population at large (as it should be) and not continue to focus efforts only to those who smoke (legally) it would be logical for it to commit its resources to lobbying for the Abortion Act to be repealed.

This would result in a better return on any money it rightly commits to reducing premature death.

Alison P.G. Welsh.

**Second ‘Close Shave’ for Charity Fundraiser John**

Newton Aycliffe Rotarian John Burrows had a hair-raising experience at this week’s club meeting when he volunteered to have his head, eyebrows and trademark beard shaved for charity.

Traditional Turkish barber, Emre Sahin, based at the Blue Bridge Centre in Newton Aycliffe, put the finishing touches to the Macmillan Cancer Support fundraiser by swapping his electric razor for an extremely sharp cut-throat razor.

“No wonder Macmillan call it the ‘Brave the Shave’ campaign”, quipped John when Emre removed the last few whiskers.

For retired housing association director John, it was the second occasion on which he had lost his hair for a worthy cause.

Twelve years ago, he had had his head shaved to raise funds for the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle as a thank you for the cancer treatment given to his great-nephew.

For the above reasons, he no longer has any objections to his future campaigns. It is not well intentioned or not.

**Local Magician Raising More Money for Charity**

Ryan Metcalfe, a magician from School Aycliffe, is raising money for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign through a magic show in August.

The internationally acclaimed magician has a familiar face of the region, having worked professionally at local venues such as Redworth Hall, Wynyard Hall and Hotel Bonnymuir. Although Ryan normally performs close-up magic at parties, corporate functions and weddings, he is performing a one-off stage show inspired by the likes of Derren Brown to raise as much money as possible for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign.

Ryan has already raised thousands of pounds for charity through fundraising as part of charity auctions at fundraising events at which he has worked including a fundraising ball for the Brain Tumour Research Campaign in May.

The show will be on the 20th of August at 7.30pm in Heighington Village Hall.

Tickets are £5 and available by going to ryanmetcalfenmagic.co.uk, searching online for “Ryan Metcalfe Tickets” or by calling 07570038952.

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**WHY ADVERTISE IN NEWTON NEWS?**

The last decade has seen a decline in the motor vehicle industry as more and more people read online and use social media or websites. Newton News has seen the opposite happen – ten years ago we were a 12 page weekly newspaper, now we regularly produce a 16 page edition (and occasionally 20 pages). This means our advertisers are confident in the service we offer and the response they get from advertising in their own community newspaper.

Newton News print and distribute over 17,000 copies every week to homes and businesses in Newton Aycliffe. Your business could benefit from advertising with us. There is no better way to reach your local audience than through Newton News. Don’t just take our word for it, ask any of our advertisers some of whom have been with us for over 30 years.

Newton News offers free editorials to our advertisers publicising particular milestones, achievements, improvements, refurbishments, awards, expansions, taking photos to go with the article. We have also added a new video facility for our new website – ALL AT NO CHARGE.

Newton News designs your advertisement FREE OF CHARGE sending a proof for approval before going to press – we will work with you to get the right advert for your business or project.

To promote your business, event or project in Newton Aycliffe talk to the team that know best . . . we will help you every step of the way. Don’t forget to use our very popular website which has even more to offer. Visit www.newtonnews.co.uk and if you would like more information on anything mentioned above please ring Paul on 01325 300212.
Tackling Environmental Crimes  

More than 80 people have been left counting the cost of environmental crimes in County Durham last month. Late fines from Durham County Council’s neighbourhood protection teams recently reported an average 29 per cent reduction since November 2014. “However, we will not be complacent and are continuing with our campaign to stop flytipping being so far.”

Community Protection Warnings and nine Community Protection Notices were handed to the owners of properties with untidy gardens and yards. Warden removed 127 stray dogs, serving as a reminder of how important it is to make sure dogs are microchipped so that they can be traced and returned to their owner if they get lost.

Teams investigated 49 reports of flytipping, the following statistics were also recorded for May:

- 451 flytipping incidents were reported and investigated – 22 are still ongoing and 10 were progressed for prosecution.
- 26 CCTV cameras were deployed in known flytipping areas.
- 14 Police and Criminal Evidence Act interviews were carried out.
- Seven duty of care letters were issued reminding people of their responsibility to dispose of waste correctly.
- There were 30 stop and check operations to find out whether waste is being carried by their owner if they get lost.
- 418 incidents passed from the police and carried out 117 alcohol tests. The following figures from Durham Constabulary, the Environment Agency and Crimestoppers to deter and stamp out rubbish illegally.

Teams carried out regular stop and check operations throughout the county we are making sure that anyone carrying waste is registered and has the correct documents in their possession.

“To use all of CCTV then, we are trying to prosecute even more people who get caught in the act flytipping.”

Cllr Brian Stephens, Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, added: “This is a reminder to the public we are managing to reduce flytipping in our beautiful county. We would like to remind people that if they can get out of unwanted items at their local tip for free or you can arrange bulky waste collection call 0300 261 000. If someone is taking your waste away it is vital to make sure you know it is going to the right place.

To find your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre visit www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc and to arrange a bulky waste collection call 0300 261 000. Businesses must meet their duty of care by putting correct waste disposal and collection – for further details visit www.durham.gov.uk/environmentalwaste

Environmental crimes, including flytipping, dog fouling and litter, can be reported online at www.durham.gov.uk or by calling 0300 261 000. Unlicensed waste carriers can be reported on Crimestoppers at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.uk or by calling 0800 555 111.

In total, 73 Durham County Council’s neighbourhood protection teams recently reported an average 29 per cent reduction since November 2014. “However, we will not be complacent and are continuing with our campaign to stop flytipping being so far.”

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BonMarche, Newton Aycliffe are hosting their grand charity raffle in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, to raise money to support people affected by cancer.

The top prize in the raffle is £250 BonMarche vouchers and a personal shopping experience; the second prize is £100 BonMarche gift vouchers and a personal shopping experience. All customers are welcome to enter and customers and family of the stores participating in the grand raffle are welcome to buy tickets on behalf of their loved ones.

For ladies that don’t like to have anything to chance, there is still the opportunity to book a free personal shopping experience, simply call BonMarche Newton Aycliffe on 01325 319544 to book your appointment.

BonMarche Newton Aycliffe Store Manager Linda Ritchie commented “we are thrilled that we are hosting the grand raffle in our store and we have our fingers crossed the lucky winner is from our town. All monies raised will go to Macmillan Cancer Support - our charity partner”. The tickets will be on sale until Friday 28th August and the winning tickets will be drawn at the BonMarche Sunderland store on Monday 1st September from the stores participating in the grand raffle.

For more information on this raffle or in-store activities experience, please call Newton Aycliffe on 01325 319544

Running Club at Hamsterley 10k

Last Sunday several members of the club took their chance against the midgets to take part in the Butterwick Hospice Hamsterley Forest 10k. This undulating but picturesque course takes the runners along tracks and minor roads through Hamsterley Forest. First home for the club was Mark Wade, 4th in 40:13, followed by Steve Smith, 27th in 48:54 and Dave Blewitt, 28th in 48:54. Trish Kay led the ladies home, 62nd in 54:47, followed by Clare Rose, 73rd in 57:42, Angela Barnett, 74th in 57:52 and Susan Clark, 138th in 1:17:16.

There was a good turnout from the runners along tracks and minor roads through Hamsterley Forest. First home for the club was Mark Wade, 4th in 40:13, followed by Steve Smith, 27th in 48:54 and Dave Blewitt, 28th in 48:54. Trish Kay led the ladies home, 62nd in 54:47, followed by Clare Rose, 73rd in 57:42, Angela Barnett, 74th in 57:52 and Susan Clark, 138th in 1:17:16.

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Year 10 students at Woodham Academy have just completed a three day Enrichment week, designed to support young people to make informed decisions about their next steps into further education, employment or training. Students had the opportunity to experience a range of activities over the four days during which a personalised programme was delivered. Students were invited to visit sixth form education providers and higher education providers, they were also able to work alongside the Durham Education Business Partnership. A small group worked with local businesses on developing high quality interview skills. The week allowed me to have experience of the choices I will have when I leave school and I am now more confident with what I want to do when I leave Woodham” said one student who had participated in the week.

Woodham Academy holds Investors in Careers status which recognises the high quality of the careers provision available at the school, with some of the programmes acknowledged by the government in the non-statutory guidance published in April last year, as good examples of innovative practice within the field of Careers education.
Getting Married?

We remind those who are planning to get married they can have their wedding recorded in Newton News at no charge.

Send in a photo and details by e-mail: syd@newtonews.co.uk or call in at our offices at:
Blue Bridge Centre St Cuthberts Way Aycliffe Business Park Newton Aycliffe DL5 6DS
or Telephone 01325 300122

Year 7 Student Awards

On Tuesday 14th July Woodham Academy held its annual Woodham Learning Celebration evening for the Y7 pupils who have completed their first year of studying.

The main hall was at full capacity with over 150 parents, carers and family attending to see 84 pupils receive certificates for outstanding effort, behaviour, progress and homework over the whole year. Certificates for participation in the National Mathematics Challenge were also awarded.

A special mention has to be made for Mr. Heaven’s Wildlife group who received the first ever John Muir Awards for Nature Conservation that the Academy has received.

One of the attending parents, Mrs. Partridge, whose daughter Rachel is pictured receiving her certificate for Outstanding Homework, Behaviour and Achievement said “Having my daughter’s hard work recognised in this way has been a lovely way to end this very important school year.

This year’s Year 7 pupils will now hopefully go on to repeat this success in Year 8. The Academy looks forward to welcoming its new Year 7 pupils in September.
Accessing our Heritage

The Bright Water Landscape Partnership covers an area of approximately 200km2 within lower Teesdale, County Durham, focusing on the River Skerne catchment from Hurworth Burn to South Park in Darlington. The project area includes the communities of Newton Aycliffe, Sedgefield, Bishop Middleham, and Fishburn, Heighington, Bratheron, Bampton and Darlington. The issues

Over the last two hundred years, the landscape of this area has been significantly altered, including the River Skerne itself. There is a history of locally significant innovation occurring within the area that influenced both the agricultural and industrial revolutions. However, there is a general lack of awareness and appreciation of this local heritage.

Many people are not well connected to the landscape on their doorstep. There are physical barriers to accessing the A1 and the East Coast main line crossing across the landscape and available information on the area is not always widely available. This creates an intellectual barrier to generating understanding of what the landscape can offer.

Our vision is to reveal a heritage of change and innovation, supporting opportunities to enhance and enjoy the natural, built and farmed landscape, realising gifts for now and the future, raising aspirations and inspiring communities. To achieve this vision the partnership will aim to:

1. To reveal the landscape of the past, showing how it has been shaped by man over thousands of years.
2. Work with landowners, local communities and other partners to provide a framework to enhance key elements of the natural, built and cultural landscape.
3. Highlight the cultural heritage of the area, a story of community that has shaped the modern world – from the birth of the railways to the Durham Oaks.
4. Provide opportunities for learning and training, encouraging the heritage of the area to be better known and conserved.
5. Enable more people to access the heritage of the landscape, helping to improve health and wellbeing.
6. Provide new opportunities for businesses, making them more resilient in the future.

We need your views

We need the ideas and views of local people to make sure we deliver the best project possible and one that champions the Bright Water area.

To find out more and to put your ideas forward please contact Helen Ryde on 0191 584 3112 or hryde@theenvironment.co.uk, or visit our Facebook page Bright Water River Skerne where we will be running an online survey, which is also available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BrightWaterSkerne. Further information is also available via the Durham Wildlife Trust website www.durhamwildlife.org.uk.

Volunteer Cook Needed for Lunch Club

Volunteer Liz Bates has been cooking for the Neville Parade Lunch Club on Tuesday during term time for 12 years. She is leaving Aycliffe so has prepared her last meal and the club has been unable to find a replacement. Up to 28 elderly people attend, most of whom would be eating at home alone.

Even if we could find someone to do it once or twice a month it would be better than closing down altogether,” said Liz.

CCTV Cameras Catch Flytippers

Seventeen suspected flytipping cases are being investigated after 24 extra CCTV cameras were set up throughout County Durham. Durham County Council has installed the additional cameras at various hotspots in a bid to deter people from flytipping and to provide crucial evidence when prosecuting those who do.

The council is currently investigating 17 suspected flytipping incidents thanks to footage gathered from its cameras. The authority is now warning would-be criminals that if they dump waste there is a bigger chance than ever of them being caught red handed on camera thanks to the extra cameras.

“With this sends a strong message to everyone to think twice before dumping rubbish as you never know where our cameras are and who might be watching,” said Cllr Brian Stephens, cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, Durham County Council. “It is encouraging to see that the additional CCTV cameras are proving effective.”

The cameras were provided thanks to funding from local councilors and are part of Operation Stop It – the biggest-ever crackdown on flytipping led by the council in partnership with Durham Constabulary, Crimestoppers and the Environment Agency.

The aim is to educate households and businesses of their duty of care when it comes to disposing of waste while taking action against those who flout the law.

In the south of the country three suspected flytipping incidents recorded on camera have been prosecuted for prosecution with two other cases under investigation. In the north of the country six incidents have been prosecuted for prosecution and five are under investigation. In the east of the county one incident is currently being investigated.

In addition, the council’s neighbourhood wardens, who investigate flytipping, have completed specialist enhanced training.

The training involved gathering and logging evidence from the scene looking at lines of enquiry and interviewing witnesses, conducting Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) interviews and improving statement writing and preparing files for court.

As well as the specialist training and extra cameras, neighbourhood wardens and police carry out regular stop and check exercises.

Eight waste carriers have been stopped in May – three did not have the correct paperwork and were issued with a notice requiring them to provide this paperwork.

One waste carrier was handed an 80 fixed penalty notice for throwing the notice away and littering.

Ian Hoult, neighbourhood protection manager, said: “The new cameras and specialist training for staff are yet more examples of our commitment to deterring the minority who dump waste illegally and spoil our environment.

“Since the launch of Operation Stop It in November last year we have already reported a decrease in flytipping incidents but we will keep working hard to stop those who flout the law.”

Meanwhile, neighbourhood wardens also help the Environment Agency investigate a second hand shop owner who broke the law by storing items and burning them at a site in South Moor, Stanley.

“While education is our priority we do also prosecute offenders,” Mr Hoult said. “At the moment we would urge all residents and businesses to dispose of their waste properly and legally.”

Meanwhile, neighbourhood wardens also helped the Environment Agency investigate a second hand shop owner who broke the law by storing items and burning them at a site in South Moor, Stanley.

Christopher Williams 56, of Acton Dene in Stanley, was last week handed a 12-month community sentence suspended for 12 months, and ordered to pay £4,000 costs at Peterlee Magistrates’ Court after admitting illegally storing and incinerating waste between December 2013 and April 2014 – please see this link https://www.gov.uk/government/news/second-hand-store-owner-burned-waste-illegally.

Anyone who collects, transports or disposes of waste must be licensed by the Environment Agency. Unlicensed waste carriers can be fined up to £5,000 as well as an additional fine of up to £50,000 if the waste is flytipped.

People are reminded that it may be illegal to pay a man with a van to collect items such as furniture if they do not have a licence. Always ask to see their waste carrier licence before handing over waste and cash.

Residents can take waste to their nearest Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/hwrc or call 03000 261 000.

Business waste is not permitted at HWRCs and must be disposed of legally using a licensed waste carrier or by signing up to a commercial waste collection service – visit www.durham.gov.uk/commercialwaste.

Flytipping can be reported at www.durham.gov.uk/flytipping or by calling 03000 261 000 and unlicensed waste carriers can be reported to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

If flytipping is in a dangerous place or causing an obstruction to a highway please call police on 999.

How to Manage a Motorway Breakdown

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) is advising drivers on how to handle a breakdown on the motorway.

Motorway accidents involving a stationary vehicle so breaking high speeds can often lead to fatalities. Here are Peter’s seven tips to guide you through the process.

1. Always prepare – keep a high visibility jacket, something waterproof and a charged mobile phone in your vehicle.

2. Don’t press on if you feel your car has a problem; pull over onto the hard shoulder and park as far left as possible to avoid slowing down traffic behind you.

3. Always turn on your hazard warning lights to let other road users know you are slowing down and pulling over.

4. Never attempt to repair the problem yourself. Ideally, call motorway control using a roadside phone and then contact your breakdown company.

5. You should always call for help using an emergency roadside telephone. The distance to the nearest phone is marked on a sign on the hard shoulder. Never cross the carriageway to get to a phone – you could easily be hit by a vehicle. The roadside phone will have already picked up your location if you use this service.

6. Make sure you and any passengers leave your vehicle by the left-hand door – never wait inside the vehicle until help arrives. Stay behind a barrier or up the embankment. If you feel threatened leave the motorway service area.

7. SMART motorways use the hard shoulder as an extra lane to give you more capacity on the motorway. On your car develop a problem on this type of motorway, leave at the next exit, or pull into a motorway service area. If you would like further advice on how to cope with a breakdown on a SMART motorway please refer to page 13 of the Highways England driver booklet.

“Breakdowns sometimes cannot be avoided, but the effect of them can be made as painless as possible. If you prepare for every eventuality, you can avoid the experience becoming too inconvenient and be on your way before too long.” For more information visit the IAM’s website at www.iam.org.uk

Military Choir Visits Aycliffe

The Women’s Institute for Durham County has obtained the services of the famous Military Wives Choir “WAGS” to perform in their annual carol concert. The choir will be joined by the Military Wives Choir Foundation and will be accompanied by the WWII Orchestra. The concert will be held at the Xcel Centre on Saturday 26th September. Doors open at 7pm for the festive carol service of the famous Military Wives Choir “WAGS” to perform in their annual carol concert. The choir will be joined by the Military Wives Choir Foundation and will be accompanied by the WWII Orchestra. The concert will be held at the Xcel Centre on Saturday 26th September. Doors open at 7pm for the festive carol service.
Heighington Inaugural Tournament

Heighington AFC Boys Under 14’s held their inaugural Summer Tournament recently, with eight teams from both the TJFA and Russell Foster Leagues competing. A lot of time and effort was put in to prepare the pitches and facilities, and there were medals and Trophies up for grabs for both the Plate and Cup Winners. In what was an evenly matched set of teams, Ferryhill Town came out winners in the Plate Competition, beating Spreaire Lads 4-1 in the final. In the Cup, Heighington Boys beat Lakeside Boys by 2-1 in a well matched game. The club plans to run a bigger tournament next year covering all 5 age groups with the club.

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