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New Rail Contract Offers Opportunities for Hitachi

FRONT PAGE LETTER

Dear Sir,

The Government's announcement on High Speed 2, which will see the construction of a high speed rail line between London and Birmingham, is to be welcomed.

The route will eventually extend further North, but even before that happens, the proposal could herald good news for North East manufacturing.

Hitachi Trains Europe who are establishing a train building factory in Newton Aycliffe has said

the company will bid to build the rolling stock for use on the high speed rail line, creating more jobs at its Newton Aycliffe factory if successful.

This is good news for Aycliffe, County Durham, the Tees Valley and the North East of England.

Hitachi starts building the Aycliffe factory towards the end of this year or the beginning of 2013 after winning the contract to build the new generation of trains for the East Coast and Great Western mainlines,

creating 500 jobs initially, with thousands in the supply chain.

By its intention to bid for the HS2, Hitachi has shown its commitment to Aycliffe and the region's workforce and people.

Phil Wilson MP Editor. It was good to see our MP on TV seeking assurances from the Minister that Hitachi could be involved in the bidding for the HS2 train building contract.

PUBLIC INVITED TO SPECIAL MEETING

Our Town Council has a special meeting on Thursday 19th Jan at 7.15pm to be addressed by Stuart Timmis County Planning Officer regarding the County Plan/Neighbourhood Plan.

This will be very interesting for members of the public who are to be consulted on the future of Great Aycliffe this year.

An insight into what the County Council are thinking will be very useful in coming to a decision.

Entrance to the Council

Chamber is by the door fronting School Aycliffe Lane and car parking is available adjacent to the office building

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FREE COURSES AT PCP TO HELP JOB SEEKERS

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) is offering a range of free courses to help job seekers.

The PCP has formed a partnership with Bishop Auckland College, as part of the Newton Aycliffe Learning Partnership, to offer a range of Community Learning courses, free to those who are claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

Courses include an Introduction to Youth Work, Teaching Assistant, Care, Counselling, Childcare, Play work, Administration and Customer Care. There's also an Employability course to help people with CV writing, job searching and applying as well as confidence building. For a full programme of activities on offer including days and times please get in

touch with the PCP.

The courses are an ideal way to gain a taste of something new or something you've always thought about doing. Plus it's a great start in longer-term learning opportunities or employment.

The sessions provide key information about the subject and the friendly and approachable training staff will deliver the information in a straightforward and understandable way, offering learners the chance to ask questions and apply the newly acquired information. The majority of courses last 4 weeks and are open to all ages and abilities. If people are not in receipt of ESA or JSA it only costs £4.60 per 2 hour session.

Carol Wood, Business Development Director for the PCP says: "We feel there is a full range of courses on offer

to help people learn a new skill, discover a new hobby or improve their confidence and self-esteem.

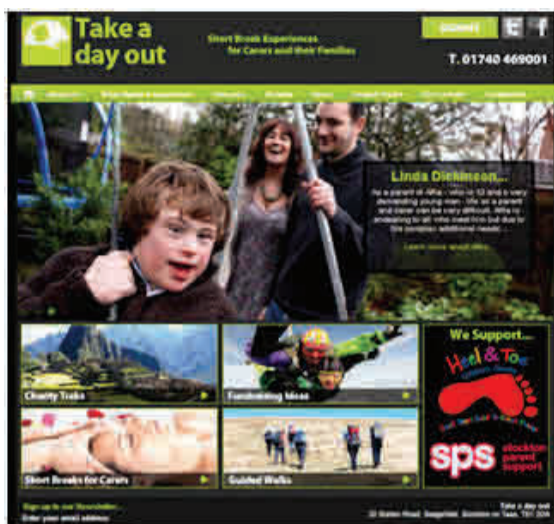
We would also like to know if there is something people want to do that isn't on offer. Please get in touch to tell us and we will do our best to provide, depending on numbers (a minimum of 10 people is required)". All courses run subject to sufficient demand and it is recommended that places are booked as soon as possible either by telephone 01325 321234 or email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net or in person at the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Walsingham Association

Members of the Newton Aycliffe Walsingham Association are advised the annual subscriptions are now due: Family £17 and single £10. New members are very welcome.

Bookings are now been taken for the Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine in Walsingham in May (21st-24th). For more information phone Joan Thorne: 01325 315627.

Aycliffe Company Helps Local Charity



"TAKE A DAY OUT" based in County Durham, offer support services and short break experiences for carers, parents and their families. The charity has recently re-launched their website re-designed by Newton Aycliffe firm Design365.

The re-designed website has been donated to the charity and has received very positive comments on the new look. "Take a day out" wanted an easy to use website which promotes a clear message.

The website includes an events page to promote charity days out, charity balls and charity treks all organised by the charity and their fundraisers.

The website also links to the charity's social media pages where their friends can post photos and comments relating to the charity and their events.

Take a day out's new website includes much more detailed information about the company, including the services they offer, events, news and their friends who have helped them across the way.

"Design365 is a growing company that we love working with because they take a real interest in the

people whose projects they work on. Alan and his team really want to help us and we hope we can help them too, by promoting their company to others," said Nathan Money, from Take a day out. Find out more about Take a day out – www.takeadayout.co.uk and web design firm Design365 – www.design365.co.uk

LIVE MUSIC AT THE IRON HORSE

North East Music Junkies based in Newton Aycliffe thank everyone who attended their Charity Evening at the Iron Horse on 28th December.

Just over £200 was raised on the night and has been split with Help the Heroes and Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. The next event is on 27th January when local band of teachers from Greenfield, "Corridor Pass", will be performing.

All events are held at the Iron Horse and on 3rd February "Red Letters" will appear along with Newtonian Barry Elkin with an acoustic set before the band plays.

J&C COACHES

Forthcoming Events

Mrs Browns Boys "Live" on Stage

Tuesday 26th June, Newcastle Arena - £39.50
Saturday 30th June, Newcastle Arena - £41.00

Chris Rea

Saturday 31st March, Newcastle Arena - £45.50

The Making of Harry Potter & Legoland Windsor

Saturday 6th October - from £99.00

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John Bishop

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Andre Rieu

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Saturday 14th January - "OVERDRIVE"

"THESE GUYS HAD THE BEST DEBUT GIG EVER IN THE PUB LAST YEAR"

Overdrive are a dynamic rock covers band playing a selection of classic rock songs from the 1960s to now. Taking you through the great ages of music from the Who to Kings of Leon, Madness to Sex Pistols, Deep Purple to Foo Fighters. With an all-action front line, a big sound and great lights, this is a brand not to be missed.

Covering tracks by Stereophonics, Bad Company, Nickleback, The Fratellis, Bowie, Green Day, T. Rex and more

A rare chance to catch these guys free in a pub gig, normally play in bigger venues that charge - these guys know how to party

Saturday 21st January - "NE/DC"

GIG PIT REVIEW - Crook FC was absolutely jam-packed and it appeared apparent that they had made such a good impression on the punters the last time they played, that quite a lot had turned out for them again, despite the dodgy weather.

Well, what can I say about the music? Well NEDC are (probably obviously) an ACDC tribute band who cover the Bon Scott era tracks, and are made of the remnants of Whey Aye CDC plus a couple of newbies to the fold.

They played a straight set for nearly two hours and as usual Graeme got right into his 'Angus' role and just never seemed to let up, an absolutely blistering guitar performance with all the moves of Angus off to a tee. The crowd were really getting into it by the third track!

Lead singer Patrick, vocally I don't think I have ever heard better. I usually refer to him as 'more Bon than Bon' but don't just take my word for it, go and see for yourself, I think you will be amazed. Despite not looking like Bon however, Patrick is a great frontman, gets the crowd going and keeps up with the Duracell bunny antics of Graeme superbly well.

The drummer Neil knows ACDC upside down and could probably play any track by them while eating a sandwich and reading a newspaper, and he puts his own trademark, of course, on everything he does. This is the second time I have seen NEDC and I think they were excellent first time round at The Blyth and Tyne, but they really stepped it up a gear and took the roof off Crook FC on Saturday.

One to watch these guys, they don't gig loads, but I personally would highly recommend them. "outstanding again. It was just like watching the AC/DC "Rock goes to college 1977" DVD....loved it."

"Absolutely mint, close your eyes and Bon is back from the dead - spooky!"

Saturday 28th January - "Tommy & The Oddballs"

Massive on the bike rally circuit, always the first band booked for the "Heart n Soul"

Recent reviews from Toon Rock Pages: "Awesome Band", as ever they played absolutely brilliantly, Tommy as fantastic as ever (The best frontman in the North East bar none. The man is an inspiration, a legend), Jeff playing goosebump solos on 'Hey Joe'. I can't believe how good they were. It was like walking into a pub full of your best mates with the best goddam juke box you could hope for. Every member of the band is a really good and talented player. The timing was great, the entertainment value was great too. The audience (well packed) loved it from the off."

"They are a superb band, prob THE BEST in the North East, period!"

Tracks covered by The Who, Bryan Adams, Thin Lizzy, Free, Hendrix, Stones, Bad Company, Kings of Leon and much more - Should be one of THE Gigs of the year - DON'T MISS IT!!

www.tommyandtheoddballs.website.orange.co.uk

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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He can help with pruning hedges and trees, carpet and furniture cleaning all at reasonable rates for senior citizens. We always suggest you ask for a written quotation before accepting any service from anyone.

We are appealing for unwanted gifts to raise cash at our next event to pay for future refurbishment of our Centre. We can collect items if you contact Peter Beatty on 313924.

Remember we have two good halls for hire for parties, Christenings Funerals etc. We can also arrange catering from 25 to 100 people. To view ring Peter.

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Woodham Students in Paris



Following recent successes of educational visits at Christmas time, Woodham Community Technology College once again offered its students another exciting opportunity to participate in a visit to Paris in the last week of term. This study visit was a cross-curricular venture combining the French, RE, Travel and Tourism and Science. The time in Paris was filled with lots of fun and engaging activities including a visit to the top of the Eiffel Tower allowing breathtaking panoramic views of central Paris on a beautiful winter's day. Students also visited the Arc de Triomphe which is seen as a distinctive symbol

of the French nation across the globe. The visit to Notre Dame cathedral was an enjoyable one, allowing students time for reflection and an opportunity to appreciate the Christian feast of Christmas within one of the world's most famous Roman Catholic monuments. A visit to the largest interactive planetarium in France was considered to be the most exciting and educational by all of the students involved. The Cité des Sciences has 30,000m² of interactive exhibits, exploring man's experiences with science. Woodham students were actively involved in many of the exhibitions and scientific

tasks. The time in Paris culminated in a visit to Disneyland Paris. Disneyland was indeed magical at this time of year with Christmas trees and lights on every corner of the theme park! Woodham students waited in anticipation for the famous Disney character parade at the end of the day, where they could watch out for characters from their favourite Disney movies. Students were actively encouraged to use lots of spoken French during their time abroad, particularly those students in Year 11 who will be taking their final GCSE French examinations in the summer. Although daunting to some, the immense sense of achievement of having been understood by a French person was encouragement enough to keep practising! This is a visit that the students will remember for the rest of their lives.

Early Risers at Woodham Chase Record



Students from Woodham Community Technology College have been getting up a little earlier than normal this week in their pursuit of record examination results. As part of the college's ongoing strategy and commitment to examination success, a series of subject specific 'Exam Slam Breakfast Clubs' have been planned, starting at 8am. The breakfast sessions, in which students receive free coffee, hot chocolate and a range of bacon and sausage sandwiches, aim to prepare students mentally for the exams by engaging their minds and delivering sharply focused revision topics covering the main areas that may appear on the forthcoming exam. This week, over 120 year 11 students arrived at school at 8am to take part in their English Exam Slam Breakfast Club immediately before their 9.15am GCSE exam.

Students were treated to a complimentary breakfast before engaging in a 45 minute 'Engaging Minds for Exam Success' session delivered by the highly skilled English department. Jon Tait, Assistant Head Teacher at Woodham commented "To see so many eager and enthusiastic students in school at 8am is incredible. It really pays tribute to their work ethic and how focused our students are on achieving outstanding results. Last year 73% of students at the school achieved a grade C or above in English. This year is set to be even better." Due to the success of the current strategy, Woodham plan to continue with their Exam Slam Breakfast Clubs over the next few weeks and months leading up to the traditional summer examination season with Science next on the horizon at the end of January.

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TEN NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS FOR YOUR JOB HUNT

It's a well-known fact that many of us will spend more time organising our annual holiday than we will planning our own career. But knowing how to find a job can be just

as important as having all the right qualifications and skill sets. Phil Roebuck, Chief Executive of Webrecruit.co.uk advises that the following strategies will help

you make the most of your job hunt in 2012 – and increase the probability of beating the competition!

- **Commit yourself to the hunt:** If you are out of work then make your job search your full time job. If you are employed then set time aside every day. Treat your career as if it were your own business. Think about your skill set as a product that needs to be marketed to the right people at the right time.

- **Focus on your prey:** Make a list of the five most important criteria for your new job. Then consider your skills and background. Reviewing opportunities that match your priorities, talents and experience will help you zero in on a position that will not only pay the bills but also make you happy to go to work each day.

- **Network network network:** Don't forget to tap the hidden job market by networking. Make time to get to know as many people in your industry as possible. Any contact you make could become your next employer or a key networking resource.

- **Get Social :** Social media has become an absolute game changer so if you don't have a Linked In profile then get one – and if you have then ensure that it is fully updated to make sure that you're as visible as possible. Look for jobs on Twitter and Facebook – you'll be amazed at what you can find.

- **Don't be shy:** Focus on your abilities and achievements in your CV- and quantify them if possible. Did your efforts save the company money for example or is there a particular project that you're proud of?

- **Tailor your application:** Make sure your CV is tailored to the job for which you are applying – don't use a scattergun, one size fits all approach – show the potential employer that you really want to work for them.

- **Get the right tools:** When you are telephoning contacts or leads have an elevator pitch yourself – four or five sentences that describe who you are, your background and what you are looking for from the person you are calling.

- **Be Prepared:** Before interviews, make sure that you have researched the company fully – there is really no excuse. Look at their website. Do a Google news search and have some questions of your own prepared.

- **Make an impression:** Consider yourself on interview from the minute you walk into an organisation. Most businesses will have a reception area and it is easy to let your guard down. You could be evaluated just as much in the waiting area as in the interview itself so ensure that you are professional and polite to anyone you meet both before and after the interview.

- **Don't give up:** If you aren't successful then don't take it personally. An interview isn't a popularity contest – no-one can be the perfect fit for every job.

AYCLIFFE SLIMMING WORLD GROUPS LOST OVER 6 TONNE LAST YEAR

Yes that's right the total amount of weight lost in 2011 was over 1021 stone! To celebrate the start of 2012 the Slimming World girls' in Aycliffe would like to share the secrets of successful slimming to help people turn their New Year's resolutions to lose weight into a healthy reality.

This January Slimming World has trawled its research to identify the recipe for successful – and sustainable – weight loss. The UK's favourite slimming club surveyed the lifestyle habits of its most successful slimmers, the target members who have lost weight and kept it off for at least 12 months. It found most people had seven habits in common and dubbed them 'the seven secrets of successful slimmers'.

"Successful weight loss isn't just about losing weight, it's about keeping it off too. Making temporary changes and going on a 'diet' that's unsustainable in the long-term will only ever be a quick fix, meaning you're bound to regain any weight you lose – and maybe more – as soon as you go back to your normal eating habits. The key is to make healthy, realistic changes to your lifestyle that you can keep up for the rest of your life."

The seven secrets of successful slimmers are:

1. Eating a wide variety of filling foods

Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan allows members to satisfy

their appetite on unlimited amounts of every day foods that are filling but low in fat too so they can lose weight without having to feel guilty, deprived or hungry.

2. Be flexible

It's important not to become obsessive and get hung up on constantly weighing, counting and measuring what you're eating.

3. Take up regular activity
The most successful slimmers are those who introduce some form of exercise into their lives as well as adopting healthier eating habits.

4. Plan and monitor

Planning meals and shopping and focusing on their progress week-by-week means Slimming World members are more in control of their weight loss and less likely to be thrown off course by unexpected events.

5. Do it for yourself

Being told to lose weight scores very low as a motivator. Slimming World puts members in the driving seat, choosing what they want to eat and what weight they want to be.

6. Involve the whole family
Eating separate special 'diet' meals can make healthy eating seem like a chore, enjoying the same healthy meals as the rest of the family was a predictor for success in the research – and they'll be healthier too!

7. Get support

Studies have shown that slimmers who join a group benefit from sharing their

experience and being fellow members with a inspired and supported by common goal.



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Planning Sub-Committee Meeting

Notice is hereby given that:-

A meeting of the Planning Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

**WEDNESDAY, 25th JANUARY 2012
at 4.00p.m.**

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, its Committees and the Planning Sub-Committee.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting.

Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:-

A meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

**WEDNESDAY, 18th JANUARY 2012
at 6.00pm**

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 25th January 2012

COUNCIL MEETING 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda.

If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting.

Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

Taxis Taking Too Much Car Space

Dear Sir,
Parking in Newton Aycliffe is so poor it is little wonder people don't bother shopping there unless you travel by taxi.

It was hard enough before they marked out 13 bays in the town centre just for taxi cabs when they already have parking spaces elsewhere. Parking for taxi cabs now outnumber disabled parking places near the town centre. To make it more difficult we now have double yellow lines where disabled people used to park.

I can possibly understand, with the proposed building of the Alidi store, they will need to keep clear for building work. But why do we have a town overrun by taxi companies taking so many spaces?

Could they not take up a disused car park on the Business Park as a central parking spot and drive into town as and when required instead of them just sitting in cars in the town centre taking up valuable car parking space?

This would be great especially for older persons who need to use the post office to collect their pensions.

Gowland, Heighington

Agnew Community Centre

Morrison Close, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4QZ

in partnership with

Anderson Sports Development

FREE NEW DISABILITY SPORTS CLUB

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The Agnew Community Centre would like to invite Parents/Carers and Children along to the club

**Commencing Tuesday 21st February
5.30pm to 7.30pm**

The club is for children aged 6 to 16 years of age and will offer various sports, fundamentals and supporting activities delivered by Anderson Sports Development Experienced Staff and using the club's wide range of new sportability equipment.

For more information please contact:

RON MITCHIE 01325 321504 or 301033
agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com

DARREN OR DALE
andersonsportsdevelopment@gmail.com

Great Aycliffe Town Council



Notice of an

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that:

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on

**THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2012
at 7.15pm**

The item for discussion on the agenda will be:

1. Localism Act – Neighbourhood Plans
To receive a presentation from Mr. S. Timmis, (Head of Planning and Assets, Durham County Council, and Mr. G. Scott).

2. Hitachi Project
To receive a presentation in regard to the Hitachi Project by Mr Geoff Hunton, Merchant Place Developments

Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. (www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

"The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".

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AYCLIFFE FINANCE COMPANY GROWS

A local small business, Fangdale Financial Ltd, (Independent Financial Advisers) has recently expanded. Owners Paul Arnold (Managing Director) and his wife Lynne (Financial Director) have purchased another IFA business outright from an associate who has retired. The couple have lived in the area for almost 30 years, 25 of which were in Woodham and the last 5 years in School Aycliffe since May 2007. “We had been discussing the prospect of expanding the business during the earlier part of last year, then following a business seminar at Wynyard Hall in March, Bernard Plumb, an Independent Financial Adviser based in Durham mentioned that he was planning to retire in the autumn of 2011 and would be selling his business. Having known Bernard for about five years we saw this as an opportunity to purchase a business from someone we knew and trusted. The transaction was completed in December”. Paul started out in the world of financial services in 1989 and has become increasingly qualified in his profession. Lynne deals mainly with the financial aspects of the business but also looks after much of the administration. Having worked for other companies for a number of years Paul and Lynne decided to set up their own



business in 2003 and have never looked back. “As Independent Financial Advisers we assist clients in planning their financial future ensuring that each case is tailor made to suit the needs and aspirations of the client concerned. We pride ourselves in getting to know our clients very well enabling us to offer them the best service possible”. They have a son, Simon, who will be 20 in April and completed his A levels at Queen Elizabeth Sixth

Form College in 2010. He is currently working whilst training in Business Administration. They also have a daughter, Ruby, who will be 18 this month and is also studying at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College towards a degree in physics. “The expansion of the business has substantially increased our client bank and will involve a lot more work. Our son has expressed and interest in coming into the business with us when he finishes his training. At

this stage we do not envisage taking on further staff, although we haven’t ruled it out as a possibility in the future”. In their spare time the family like to spend time together going on country walks, ten pin bowling and going to the cinema. The whole family is musical and spends a great deal of time playing music together in Christian churches of all denominations and other venues around the county. Simon is presently working on grade 8 piano having passed grades 1-7 and Ruby is preparing to take her grade 5 violin exam this term having passed grades 1-4. Paul and Lynne both play guitars and sing with their friend Pat under the group name of Laudate Dominum.

NEWTON NEWS Conditions of Acceptance of News and Advertisements

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Motorbike Nuisance

Dear Sir,
I totally agree with the letter last week regarding Motorbikes and Quads on The Great Aycliffe Way. I live only yards away from the popular walkway and the noise is horrendous. I have made numerous calls to the police regarding these nuisance bikes yet they do nothing about them - so much for their “no tolerance” statement on off-road bikes. Some offenders think it is OK to ride on the open fields adjacent to the walkway near Simpature Gate/Jowet Way. In order to ride on these fields, you need permission from the landowner, which you will not get, so it is still an offence and your bike/quad could be confiscated. These constant offenders have no respect for their neighbourhood or anyone else for that matter and it is an accident waiting to happen. It has come to the stage where CCTV is needed to catch these offenders in the act, and to prosecute them. It’s about time the police stepped up their campaign to rid us of these bikers and start making examples of the people who do this. The nature walk is for people who enjoy the wildlife, exercise and walking their dogs, not for those who enjoy making residents and walkers lives a misery. Come on Police and Council - get your act together! Annoyed
Name & address supplied

ROTARY CLUB OFFERS FREE TRIP TO BRAZIL FOR NEWTONIAN



The town’s Rotary Club invite anyone interested in applying to be a sponsored candidate for a trip to Brazil later this year. This is an opportunity for a professional person to widen their experience by joining the North East Rotary Group Study Cultural Exchange visit to Brazil departing for 4-6 weeks in May. Candidates must be aged between 25 and 40 at the date of application and be UK citizens. They must be employed, full time, and have at least 2 years work experience in their chosen profession and intend to remain in that profession for a considerable time afterwards. They must be employed or

reside in the North East and have the support of their employer. Candidates must be prepared and available to be interviewed by members of Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club and, if successful, by representatives of the Rotary North East District. Candidates should have their own transport to attend pre-departure meetings with other candidates and the team leader. Applications forms from Rotarian David Hogg, Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club Rowan Cottage 3 Walworth Gate, Darlington DL2 2UB. Tel: 01325 301423. Final date for returned application forms 31/1/12

move on homes

Newton Press Buildings, St. Cuthberts Way
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX
Tel: 01325 311737
www.moveonhomes.co.uk

Ida Place
Newton Aycliffe
£74,950

A well present and 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.

Lingard Walk
Newton Aycliffe
£115,000

Three bedroom terrace house, fitted kitchen, DG, GCH, rear garden, well maintained home - must be viewed!

Finchale Rd
Newton Aycliffe
£179,950

Three bedroom detached family home. Paved driveway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, utility, ensuite, garden, garage

Lee Green
£550pcm

Three bedroom house, Central Heating, Double Glazed, Bathroom, Lounge, Diner, Kitchen, Parking, Downstairs toilet. Large garden with patio and grassed areas. NO DSS & NO SMOKERS £550 pcm plus bond Application fee and references required

North Road
Darlington
Reduced to £75,000

Two storey terraced commercial property, has a good potential to be transformed into flats. Enclosed rear yard.

Annard Way
Cobblers Hall
£160,000

Competitively priced 3 bedroom detached house, ensuite shower room, integral garage, fitted kitchen, DG, chain free!

Karles Close
Woodham Village
£235,000

Extended 4 bedroom detached, loft conversion, luxury ensuite, fitted kitchen, conservatory, games room

Beechfield
Newton Aycliffe
£75,000

Three bedroom end link house. Lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, DG, easy maintenance gardens, fish pond and patio area

Emerson Wa
Newton Aycliffe
£69,000 ono

2 bedroom terrace, double glazed, GCH, enclosed garden to rear, seperate WC. Partly refurbished.

Skirlaw Road
Newton Aycliffe
£92,500

A well presented improved three bed end terrace house. Modern fitted kitchen, GSH, modern bathroom, large garden, d/glazing. Ideal family home.

BEECHFIELD
4 bed terrace - £97,000
MELLANBY CRESCENT
3 bed end terrace - £122,000
BEWICK CRESCENT
2 bed end terrace - £87,950
KESTREL WAY
3 bed detached - £139,999
OAKFIELD
3 bed terrace - £100,000
MERZ ROAD
3 bed end terrace - £90,000
GUTHRUM PLACE
3 bed end link - £89,000
CHAPMAN CLOSE
2 bed end terrace - £89,000
LANCELOT CLOSE
2 bed mid link - £89,000
SUNNYDALE, Shildon
3 bed semi - £8,000

Hatfield Road
Newton Aycliffe

Three bedroom mid terrace property. Close to local amenities. Central Heating, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room uPVC Double Glazing with enclosed gardens. Immediate possession, no chain

Honister Place
Newton Aycliffe
£65,000

Three bedroom end terrace house conveniently situated, modern fitted kitchen, modern bathroom, garden, DG. Ideal family home

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.

Bowes Road
Newton Aycliffe
£89,000

Two bedroom semi detached property, offering DG, conservatory, modern kitchen. Internal viewing strongly recommended.

Protect the Countryside

Dear Sir
I keep reading the "hype" from both sides regarding the Golf Course development application. Anyone who has played the course knows that it can never ever be a Golf Resort or a venue for golf holidays. It is impossible to drain the fairways satisfactorily as the course is built on clay soil and will always have problems around wet weather. There should be no houses either and this whole application should be turned down. Bill Bryson in a letter to the Newton News is concerned about building on our green and pleasant land, and there are plenty more suitable sites around the area without spoiling our countryside.
J S FORSTER
Sandown Drive

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USING TECHNOLOGY TO SUCCEED



Protech Windows Direct has been trading successfully on the internet since 1996. The company has exported products to all parts of the world such as Japan, Europe, the USA, most offshore Islands and Ireland. Managing Director Brendan Bermingham commented "faint heart never won fair lady, so what is the worst that can happen? The container might fall overboard at which point we would either reimburse the customer or resend the goods."

So far that has not happened and we have successfully delivered conservatories to Los Angeles, San Diego, New Haven Connecticut, Calgary, Canada, Williams Arizona...the gateway to the Grand Canyon, Germany, the Netherlands as well as other glazing products to Italy, Berlin, Iceland, the United Arab Emirates and many other places around the world. When I first established this business aged 24 in 1978 I took a big chance, bought automatic glass cutting equipment and uPVC machinery, but my most important investment was in optimising software and 33 years on we are successful and still at the forefront of technology".

Breast Feeding Support Group

Expectant mums and breast feeding mothers can attend a free breast feeding support group which meets every Thursday 1.30 - 3.00 at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. Health visitors will give advice when needed, weigh your baby and there is a welcoming group of mums who can offer support and a friendly chat whilst babies and older brothers and sisters up to the age of five play and interact.
Contact: Pat Poinen on 07980 729738

Swimmers Raise £1,000

Sedgefield 75 Swimming Club recently held a sponsored swim and raised £1000 of which they donated £500.00 to Cancer Research UK. We are very proud of all those who took part, not least our Chief Coach, John Moore who has recently undergone successful treatment for cancer. It is also worth pointing out that CRUK help support young people in their studies to become scientists. One of our former swimmers, Jill Hunter, was supported by CRUK and is now working as a research scientist at Newcastle University. Thank you to all who took part because every little helps.

COLLEGE "RELENTLESS" IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Students enjoy learning at Bishop Auckland College which is "relentless in its pursuit to drive up the quality of teaching and learning". That is the verdict of Ofsted inspectors, who found students liked the friendly support from teachers, the excellent facilities and the financial support and free transport offered by the College. Good provision in literacy and numeracy is increasing students' employability skills, aided by the development of good social and personal skills and punctuality, inspectors found. Employers who work with the college praised good communication, the quick response to any queries, staff expertise, knowledge and professionalism, regular visits to the workplace and the help and advice provided. The team of nine inspectors, led by Josephine Nowacki, carried out a five day visit in late November and their report was published today by Ofsted.

It concluded: "The Principal provides strong and energetic leadership and, together with senior managers and governors, has created a culture that is raising expectations among staff and students. A clear vision and strategic direction is clearly communicated and understood by all staff." The report continued: "Through strong leadership, the governors, Principal and senior managers have transformed the college into one where expectations are high. Success rates have improved for nearly all students." It added: Teaching is now good or better and this is impacting positively on student outcomes. Learners enjoy college and the majority make good progress...students get on well together and a culture of respect and tolerance permeates the college." The college, which has a £32m main campus in Bishop Auckland, an £8m construction and apprenticeship centre in

Spennymoor and community learning centres in Crook, Newton Aycliffe and Teesdale, has around 8,750 students. Long and short courses are offered in subject areas including construction & engineering, art & design, catering & hospitality, childcare & education, sport, computing, health & social care, music technology, performing arts, travel & tourism and uniformed services. Students include 14-16 year olds on part time courses, sixth formers on full time courses, apprentices and adult learners. Ofsted awarded the College a Grade 2 overall including teaching and learning, leadership and management and for overall success rates, the second highest of four possible grades where 1 is outstanding; 2 is good; 3 is satisfactory; 4 is inadequate. The full report can be viewed on the Ofsted website at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/130657>

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ELEMORE PLACE Newton Aycliffe
3 bedroom terraced house in good condition, unfurnished with carpets, blinds & appliances. Downstairs WC, kitchen, lounge/ dining room, bathroom with overhead shower. GCH, enclosed courtyard with shed, communal parking. Rent £395 pcm
LET - Similar Properties Required

BROOK CLOSE Woodham Village
Modern 2 bedroomed semi detached house, unfurnished with carpets, blinds & cooker. Lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, pleasant gardens front & back, parking. Rent £485 pcm.
LET - Similar Properties Required

LISLE ROAD Newton Aycliffe
Modern refurbished 2 bedroomed terraced house in pleasant location, unfurnished with carpets, blinds, fitted oven and refrigerator, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, double & 1 decent bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. GCH, enclosed lawned rear garden with patio, front open plan lawned garden, parking space. Rent £485 pcm
LET - Similar Properties Required

GRANGE COURT Woodham Village
3 bedroomed modern detached house at head of cul de sac, giving high degree of privacy. Unfurnished with carpets & fitted robes. Hall, fitted kitchen, dining room with glazed doors leading to lounge with feature fireplace, WC, 3 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower cubicle. Gas CH, gardens with shed and Wendy house, garage and parking. (Minimum let 1 year). Rent £600 pcm.

CAMPION COURT Woodham Village
Newly refurbished modern 2 bedroomed semi-detached house in convenient location for D'ton & A1M. Unfurnished with carpets & curtains. Lounge, breakfast kitchen, 1 double & good-sized single bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, gardens, garage & parking. Rent £475 pcm

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The Only Councillor to Oppose Woodham Golf Club Development

Dear Sir
Three cheers for Mrs Crichton and may I say I was the only Town Councillor who voted against this proposal and agree the Town Council was hoodwinked when they voted to support this development. No County Councillors voted in the meeting.

This letter is directed to Mr Murphy's comments which followed Mrs Crichton's letter. He says she is inaccurate which suggests he is correct. The site is not a green field, but he does not say what it is designated as and it is certainly not a housing site. The term is "white lands" which in effect means it is undesignated.

If we look at the "relevant policies" he refers to, the Strategic Housing Association whose views the planning authority are obliged to take into account, recently reported that this site should NOT be allocated for housing.

Unbelievably, the officer dealing with this application, appears not to have heard of the SHA. Their view is the same as they made in 1996 when the current Local Plan was issued.

The Sedgfield Borough Council's Local Development Framework report in June 2007, lists alternative sites available in Newton Aycliffe, which does NOT include the golf club site for housing. This

would have been the new Local Plan proposals for Sedgfield Borough if unification had not intervened.

The new Local Plan for County Durham, currently being consulted on, also does NOT include the Golf Club site for housing. So where is this vast majority of relevant policies?

There is a shortage of executive housing in County Durham but no areas are defined. There is a shortage of affordable homes but Mr Murphy is not intending to build any of those, in fact he specifically excludes any affordable homes on his site as a condition of his application.

There is a general requirement to provide 20% of these on any new development, which in this case would amount to 10 houses, however developers can get out of this requirement by paying the council an agreed sum in lieu, which is exactly what Mr Murphy is doing.

The amount is not prescribed and Mr Murphy has proposed a figure of £350,000 which he says has been agreed by the council for which he estimates they can build 20-30 affordable houses. He must be living in "cuckoo land".

This figure has NOT been agreed by the council. The County Council has no agreed policy in place for assessing this figure as yet. If we look at neighbouring councils, Stockton for example require

developers to pay £100,000 for each affordable house, that would be £1 million for this application not £350,000 as proposed by Mr Murphy. Middlesborough require developers to provide a suitable site and build the required number of houses at their own expense whatever it costs.

Mr Murphy has quite deliberately submitted this application as a package, confirmed twice to me in answer to my question in the GATC meeting. What this means is that if any part of the application is rejected then the whole application is rejected. Councillors take note of this Take it or leave it attitude. He also threatens, if the application is rejected, he will leave the site to the weeds. He is buying planning permission. If you oppose this scheme write to Mr S Timmins, Head of Planning at Durham County Council and also contact your County Councillor. Individual letters of objection carry more weight than any other means of communication.

Councillors on the Planning Committee should consider carefully the implications of this application which will set a precedent for all future applications in County Durham.

Keith Henderson
Great Aycliffe Town Councillor

Aycliffe Runners in New Year Fell Race



The Royal Oak pub in Great Ayton was full on New Year's morning distributing race numbers to those hardy souls who chose to blow away the cobwebs by doing a challenging 5.5 mile fell race to the top of Captain Cook's monument and back.

Lee Wren and Peter Milburn from Aycliffe Running Club joined nearly 300 other runners on the start line just as the heavens opened and drenched everyone. Sections of the course were wet, muddy and slippery but that did not deter Lee and Peter. It was a close fought battle between the two but Lee pulled away in the last 400m finishing in 39:05 with Peter just behind in 39:12.

AYCLIFFE BEGIN NEW YEAR WELL

Newton Aycliffe 36 South Tyneside College 0

After three weeks without a game, Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club were keen to get back on the promotion trail in Durham and Northumberland Division 3. A strong squad was available with the aim of revenge for an early season defeat adding to the sense of anticipation before the match. Straight from the kick-off, Aycliffe began to dominate, the forwards were on top of their bigger but slower opponents in the scrums and lineouts, and the rucks were functioning well.

From a scrum, quick hands in midfield released James Thacker whose pace was too much for the defenders and his try, together with Gareth Parsonage's conversion, gave Aycliffe an early 7 point lead. After more forward dominance, Chris Richards broke free and seemed to be going to score before he was halted short of the line, but Thacker was on hand to add his second try and Parsonage again converted.

Parsonage, Richards and Thacker then combined to shred the defence again and, when the move broke down, quick rucking saw Warren Parsonage feed full-back Adam Gascoigne, who set up Andrew Parkin for a try in the corner.

When Craig Holmes added a converted try to bring up the bonus point before the break, Aycliffe, with a 26 - 0 lead, were looking for a big score to improve their points

difference.

In the second half, the forwards continued their fine efforts, with Drew Gibson having a fine match at open-side flanker and Jeff Hodgson, Bob Malvern, and Lewis McCormick powerful in the scrums; they frequently produced good ball in attacking positions but a combination of poor handling and "white line fever" saw a number of chances go begging. The forwards took matters into their own hands with a push-over try which No. 8 Holmes dabbled down. Gareth Parsonage added a sixth try when his side step was too much for the College defence from short range.

McCormick showed great pace and strength with a thirty metre run.

The final 20 minutes of the match saw the visitors show their spirit as they came back into the match and had chances to score a consolation try but good Aycliffe tackling held them out to record a satisfactory win.

After all the top three teams recorded bonus point wins, it's "as you were" at the top of the league. On 14th January Aycliffe travel to third place Prudhoe and Stocksfield for a crucial match; kick-off is at 2.15pm.

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club are sponsored by Workshop Supplies and Lift Right Forklift Training. Visit the new website at www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe.

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Ring 07973 773815 (voicemail) or
Email: jobapplications@oswaldhouse.co.uk
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Closing Date 31st January 2012

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Greenfield Community College

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Tel: 01325 300378 - Fax: 01325 379058
<http://greenfieldschool.net>



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Main responsibilities for the post include reception duties, data input, first aid and general office duties.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300378 or email susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield Community College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

Closing Date: 12 noon 25th January 2012
All appointments are subject to medical clearance and CRB Enhancement Checks.

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

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ZUMBA FITNESS - Wednesdays 7-8pm

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ZUMBA FITNESS - Wednesdays 8-9pm

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Record funding of £600k from British Gas, EDF Energy, E.ON, npower, ScottishPower and Scottish and Southern Energy, and will help households facing increased energy costs to benefit from the free Energy Best Deal service offered by Citizens Advice in conjunction with Ofgem.

The campaign, run by Citizens Advice with support from energy regulator Ofgem offers a package of energy related advice for vulnerable consumers in the former Sedgefield Borough area who really need it. Staff from Sedgefield CAB have been trained to deliver advice that will help people make their homes energy efficient, ensure they are claiming the right benefits and are on the best energy tariff for them. In early 2011, the Energy

Best Deal campaign saw some 340 energy advice sessions delivered across England and Wales by Citizens Advice Bureaux and other agencies, such as housing associations and independent advice agencies, selected from the membership of the regional financial capability forums.

To date almost 5,500 frontline advisers have been trained and it is expected that over 94,000 consumers have benefited from the Energy Best Deal training sessions since 2008.

More than 1,200 sessions will be delivered in England, Wales and Scotland between December and May 2011/12. Presentations are aimed at consumers and frontline advisers who are likely to be in contact with those most at risk of falling

into fuel poverty, such as pensioners and those on low incomes.

An independent evaluation in 2011 showed that 80% of consumers said they would probably or definitely do something as a result of the session. 50% said they would contact their current energy supplier, 40% said they would look at other energy suppliers' prices, and 38% said they would tell friends and family what they had learnt.

Sarah Harrison, Ofgem's Senior Partner for Sustainable Development, said: "This evaluation shows the value of Energy Best Deal which is particularly critical given the recent increase in energy prices. Vulnerable customers need all the help they can get to get the best deal. Ofgem is pushing forward with reforms to the retail market

which will make choosing a better deal easier for all consumers by removing complex tariffs. Easy to understand prices will help make Energy Best Deal even more effective at helping vulnerable consumers."

Gillian Guy, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice said: "Citizens Advice Bureaux are seeing a huge rise in the number of clients seeking help with fuel debts expected to soar. This year alone Citizens Advice Bureaux has dealt with more than 100,000 enquiries about fuel debt

and the Citizens Advice website has seen a 78 per cent increase in the number of people viewing our advice on this issue. Energy Best Deal is a vital source of information for our clients who desperately need help to save money on their fuel costs."

If you would like help in checking that you are receiving the best energy deal, please call into one of our sessions. If you are an organisation that would benefit from training to help support your clients, please contact Emma on 01388 825410

NO HOUSES ON GOLF COURSE PLEASE

Dear Sir,
 The planning application to build on Woodham golf course has been running now for several years so if the Planning Committee are at last about to consider the proposals that is very welcome. The revised application was submitted as long ago as November 2010 and the consultation date ended in

July last year. However, the County Council Planning website does not show a date for the Planning Committee to consider the proposals has been set yet, so a decision by the end of January as suggested by the director of the company, looks very unlikely. Many residents of Woodham have been holding their breath hoping the building will not happen but are becoming a little weary of the saga this has developed into and I am sure that many members of the golf club would like to see the future of the course settled once and for all.

In his letter last week, Mr Murphy of Washington building work would start before the end of the year but surely there would need to be a lot of work done to bring the Middridge Road up to scratch to accommodate construction traffic before any building could begin.

Would they not first have to create some new holes to replace the ones that are planned to be built on? For my part, I just hope that common sense prevails and the application will be rejected once and for all just as previous applications to build on this site have quite rightly been thrown out.

As for Mr Murphy stating that the golf course is not a "green field" site, well I suppose that there are a few sandy bunkers around the course that are not green! Just because there are golf holes on this land certainly does not make it a "brown field" site as far as I am concerned.

The real point at issue though, is that by building here, a precedent would be set and the door opened for even more "executive" housing development in the attractive rural areas around our town. We should not allow that to happen and I hope that the Planning Committee will

recognise this. There are alternative sites which would be far less intrusive into our countryside. Perhaps our Town Councillors could change their minds yet again about support for this project. I certainly hope so. Woodham Resident
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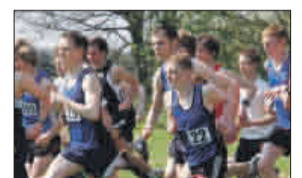
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Golf Club Plan Might Not Bring Affordable Houses to Aycliffe

Dear Sir,
As a resident I would like to reply to the Golf Club Response in last week's Newton News. Regarding the bank funding they have or would receive do not answer the questions raised by the information from Companies House. This information is not plucked from the air - it will have been provided by Washington Developments Ltd to Companies House. The Director Jamie Murphy states, "Washington Developments will be providing a financial contribution of £350,000 towards the provision of affordable housing in Newton Aycliffe." It is good that some affordable housing could come out of this scheme, however, as stated by more than one Town Councillor, and upheld by County Councillors and the Leader of the Town Council (at the Town Council meeting to discuss the development) these affordable houses **NEED NOT BE BUILT IN NEWTON AYLCLIFFE**. The meeting was told that there was a set procedure for this type of money which

would be put in a County-wide pool of funds for affordable housing to be built anywhere in County Durham wherever it was felt the need was greatest. He also states that the provision of affordable houses in Newton Aycliffe with your financial contribution has been agreed with Council and will be secured via a legal agreement! You do not state which Council but one assumes it must be Durham County Council as Aycliffe would have no say in this sort of matter. If this is actually the case any legal agreement would seem to be contrary to planning laws as there is a set procedure for this type of money. If the County are making exceptions for Washington Developments what are Washington Developments doing for the County? Aside from this, as residents, we are aware that legal agreements and covenants are not worth the paper they are written on when it comes to the Golf Course. If they were binding then the proposed development would

never have seen the light of day as it is totally contrary to the former Aycliffe Development's covenant regarding greenfield sites to the north of Newton Aycliffe. With regards to jobs, the building jobs would be short term for a project which does not seem to win over the local population when it comes to need. Do we need more executive housing? Are the main bosses for companies coming to Newton Aycliffe really wanting to live in a town with no attractions whatsoever, a run down town centre which only seems capable of attracting mostly charity or cheap shops, no night life to speak of, I won't go on. There are at least two very good hotels within a five mile radius of the town both with excellent spa and gym facilities, one with its own golf course and the other advertises that clients can play golf at Woodham which is very nearby. There is normally availability of rooms at these hotels and should one desire there is usually no problem booking spa/beauty treatments there. It begs the question is there a shortage of these facilities in these strained times? One does not need to go

that far for a wide variety of beauty treatments as there is of course The Works on Cobblers Hall and a very wide variety of treatments available at the Pease Way Surgery complex. As yet it has not been proved to everyone's satisfaction that there is a need for the hotel, spa or executive housing. Let us hope that Durham County Council can see through the Irish Blarney (a word which has come to mean "clever, flattering or coaxing talk") and listen to the population of Newton Aycliffe. As Mrs Crichton quite rightly said residents can register their feelings regarding the plans with Mr. S Timmins, Durham County Council, Area Office, Green Lane, Spennymoor. DL16 6JQ or on line on the Durham County website. I have been assured by the planning department that all comments regarding this planning issue will be taken into consideration right up to the day it is considered by the Planning Committee. The latest date seems to be 31st January 2012, plenty of time then for anyone who feels strongly about this to register their opinion. A Bergg (Mrs)

Chat with the Chairman on Budget Setting for 2012/13

Durham Police Authority finances its budget with funding from government grants, council tax payments and non-domestic rates. Non-domestic rates, or business rates, are collected by local authorities from occupants of non-domestic properties. Members of the public who have a question about how the police budget is set or would like to feed in their views about the proposed police budget for 2012/13 can either speak with the Chair of Durham Police Authority directly, or have the opportunity to attend a meeting at County Hall in Durham. The Police Authority will be meeting with business rate-payers (at 5pm) and their Citizens' Panel (council tax-payers, at 5.30pm) on Tuesday 17 January in Committee Room 2 at County Hall, Durham. Business rate-payers and members of the public are welcome to attend the appropriate meeting to feed in their views on the budget proposals for 2012/13. Mr Peter Thompson, Chairman of Durham Police Authority said: "At this time of the year the Police Authority has to make a judgement around what can be realistically funded and what residents can afford and it is important that we consult widely with the general public

to this end. The Citizens' Panel is one way of doing this. "Whilst we continue to put front-line policing services at the forefront of our thinking the Police Authority also needs to support the Chief Constable and his officers in every way possible to ensure that Durham Constabulary maintains its status as one of the best performing forces in the whole of the country". Residents of County Durham

and Darlington who cannot attend the meeting but wish to discuss any aspect of the 2012/13 budget have the opportunity to speak to the Chair of the Authority by telephone on 0191 383 3503, 07824 460463 or 07798 816737 on the dates and times shown below: Monday 16th January 2012: 8am-10am, 12 noon - 4pm and 5pm-7pm, Tuesday 17th January 2012: 10am-12 noon, 4pm-5pm and 7-8pm.



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GOLF COURSE SHOWS SIGNIFICANT LOSSES

Dear Editor,
I refer to last week's published letters concerning Washington Developments Ltd planning application for 50 houses and a hotel on Woodham golf course. Mr Murphy, the director of the company, in his response letter has perhaps inadvertently gone some way towards explaining why it is that our Town Councillors changed their minds over their support for this application. The apparently very generous offer of £350,000 for the building of affordable homes has presumably seduced them in this regard, but the issues of how the project can be viable and financed have still not been evidenced in the application which can be viewed on-line at the Durham County Council web site. At least the company has now filed its October 2010 year end accounts at Companies House (nearly 4 months late) but this gives even further cause for concern with another significant trading loss increasing the profit and loss deficit to £1.82million of accumulated losses (2009 £1.63million). The figures are now, of course, somewhat historic but, in the light of them, is it not unreasonable for Town Councillors and Planning Committee Members to

demand to see proper documented evidence of the proposed source of full funding for this project as well as the 2011 accounts? In my last letter, I raised the question of the costs of the up-grading of Middridge Road from the Rushyford roundabout to the Woodham roundabout that will be essential if the application should be granted. I would be interested to know what the likely cost would be for these road improvements to the local tax payer and what contribution, if any, Washington Developments would be making. Nothing in Mr Murphy's letter deals with this important issue or suggests that his company intends to pay for this. Mr Murphy also claims in his letter that Woodham golf course is not a green field site. The technicalities of what is green field, green wedge or green belt are best left for the Planners but it seems to me that whenever I drive along the Middridge Road I am struck by how green and pleasant the golf course looks and what an attractive approach to our town this is. If this is not a green field site then I am at a loss to know what it is. 50 houses and a 75 bed hotel would certainly change all of that! V Crichton



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Friday 3rd February - The 80's Experience
The best disco party ever. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £10.95 per person

Saturday 4th February - Gourmet Evening
Join us for a sumptuous 6 course dinner prepared by our fantastic Chefs, using local produce to prepare each dish. Enjoy a tasting of fine wines to suit each course and soothing background music from our fantastic pianist - £39.50 per person. Why not make a night of it and stay over in one of our beautiful bedrooms, accommodation rates available from £60.00 per room

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Grants for Aycliffe Manufacturers

The British Automation and Robot Association (BARA) is looking for all Newton Aycliffe manufacturers who wish to take advantage of the latest government funding to improve efficiencies and create more jobs.

The initiative is available to all sizes and types of manufacturers, but mainly small and medium sized enterprises who aims to improve competitiveness, raise productivity and ultimately create more jobs. The programme involves the Government paying for an independent Automation Consultant to visit the premises, carry out a detailed assessment and write a report.

Aycliffe Manufacturers to Benefit from Jobs Created by Robots!

Contrary to common belief, almost without exception, automation and robotics actually increase the number of jobs and raise profit margins through greater capacity and efficiency.

Mike Wilson Chairman of

BARA said "The recently launched government funded Automating Manufacturing Programme will provide great assistance to companies looking to use automation to improve competitiveness and drive growth.

We at BARA are aware that there are many Newton Aycliffe companies that would qualify and benefit." He concluded "Together we could help make UK manufacturing some of the best in the world and create more jobs that Newton Aycliffe needs."

It takes 5 minutes to apply for a government funded Automating Manufacturing review and will result in a totally independent automation expert carrying out an initial assessment, visiting premises to conduct a confidential detailed review and provide a report.

To apply please contact grant.collier@ppma.co.uk. or for further information call Grant Collier on 020 8773 8111.

Ex-Pro Launches New Course for Unemployed



A FORMER professional footballer who runs his own Academy is looking to pilot an innovative new course to benefit unemployed people.

Ex-Sunderland and Darlington midfielder Martin Gray, who runs the rapidly-developing Martin Gray Football Academy (MGFA), will run the Government-backed 'Skills for Life' course during the February half-term holiday. The two-day course,

available to people aged 19 and over, will focus on improving numeracy skills, incorporated into football to encourage learning and the participants' chances of finding work.

Held at Greenfield Community College in Newton Aycliffe, Gray and his team, consisting of coaches as well as qualified teachers, will help learners to improve their numeracy by at least one level.

Gray said: "We'll use football-related numbers to educate the learners, so for example we'll have a coaching session and then we'll talk about how numeracy links to the session, such as percentage of passes completed, area of the football pitch and boxes as well as league tables and other football statistics.

"We'll also do a lot of work in the classroom to improve people's numeracy skills - again, using football as the inspiration - which will hopefully improve their chances of finding employment in the long run. "The courses are completely free and fully accredited, with the aim to make sure every learner increases their numeracy by at least one level, regardless of their current level.

"So although the course is initially designed to be 16 hours in length over two days, we'll work with them as long as it takes for them to gain the qualification." Skills for Life qualifications are based on national

standards, so everyone, including potential employers, can see what you're capable of.

They're recognised to boost confidence, improve CVs and provide stepping stones to other courses such as NVQs.

The MGFA Skills for Life course will be held during the half-term break, on Tuesday and Wednesday February 14 and 15, at Greenfield Community College.

To book, or for more details, call 07738 131914, email info@martingrayfootballacademy.co.uk, or go to www.martingrayfootballacademy.co.uk

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PUTTING DUTY BEFORE SELF

Dear Sir,
The article concerning the future of Great Aycliffe is a great idea in theory, but putting it into practice is difficult as the Labour-run Town Council is running scared of Labour County Councillors, the Labour MP and the Trimdon Constituency Office who all appear to run our town.

Perhaps I should not say this but people should realise Labour principles have gone from this town through a policy of looking after themselves

and not the people they serve, building castles in the air and houses of straw.

People may ask what have we done as opposition and in reply I would suggest we have represented the people who need us when required.

We have not got people to write to Newton News bragging about what we have done. We have no desire to do this because we are just carrying out our duties.

Counc Alan Warburton
Independent

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You may not get 3 wishes but The Tearaways Youth Theatre Group certainly will when they stage their annual pantomime "Aladdin" at the Civic Hall, Shildon, Thursday 26th, Friday 27th, and Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm, and Sunday 29th January at 2pm.

Amongst the cast line up are local girls Jade Hind and Charlotte McAdam who play the lead roles of Aladdin and Princess Jasmine in the 2 hour show.

A spokesperson said "Everyone can boo and hiss at the evil Abanazer, or roll around laughing at the hapless comedy duo Wishee and Washee. The show is full of lots of music, dancing and colourful costumes - a real traditional family pantomime". For the Thursday show only, all tickets are £2-50 each. Whilst the Friday to Sunday performances tickets are priced £4-50 Adults, £2-50 Children and Concessions. All tickets must be pre-booked by ringing 01325 313363 or 01388 774838. www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk

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Popular Alpha Course at Xcel Church

Everyone in Newton Aycliffe is invited to the Xcel Centre for the Launch Party of the Alpha Course - 7pm on Thursday 19th January.

The event is designed to introduce you to the Alpha Course, which provides an opportunity to explore the meaning of life. The course is free and open to everyone. Two and a half million people across the UK are already estimated to have taken part in this course which are now running at 5,300 churches of all denominations.

Alpha is a practical and contemporary introduction to the Christian faith and provides a relaxed and informal opportunity for participants to make up their own mind about Christianity. It is constructed around one meeting a week for ten weeks and has become increasingly successful in the UK over the last 10 years. The Rev'd Nicky Gumbel, who presents the Alpha material, said: 'We have heard so many wonderful stories of people - many of them young - whose lives have been changed by God through the Alpha Course in churches of all denominations throughout the country.' For further information,

contact: Xcel Church on 0845 450 5871

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Lisa Margoch has been attending Bootcamp since February 2011 and is delighted with the results saying, "I cannot recommend DK Bootcamp highly enough! I have been attending classes 3 times a week for 10 months and I have lost over 2 stone. The sessions are constantly different, varying from circuits, boxercise, weights and cardio training. My fitness levels have dramatically improved and I have dropped 2 dress sizes. My confidence has improved and I have met some lovely friendly people as everybody enjoys Donna's classes, she keeps you motivated and encourages the whole class

to push themselves as much as they can".

Adam Byrne says "Bootcamp has improved my fitness levels, and I would recommend attending classes to anyone".

Donna Kelly holds her Bootcamp 3 times a week, Monday, Wednesday & Friday at Woodham Community Centre, 6.30-7.30am. The sessions are £3.50 each or you can pay for a course of 6 weeks at £60 saving £10!

If you would like more information or if you would like to book your place please contact Donna on 07854 741673.

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"Made in Durham" Exhibition



Dave Spensley, Managing Director of Aycliffe Fabrications Ltd, exhibited his company's "Aycliffe Head" project.

An event to showcase the best of 'Made in Durham' proved a major success this week. More than 30 exhibitors celebrated some of the best manufacturing businesses Durham has to offer at County Hall.

The Made in Durham event was the brainchild of Cllr Dennis Morgan, Chairman of Durham County Council, was delighted by the response of businesses that took part. "County Durham has a number of companies from micro businesses to world-class manufacturers who have made the county their home and who continue to produce their products here," said Cllr Morgan.

To recognise their contribution to our local economy, Cllr Morgan invited businesses to showcase their products, ranging from engineering

companies to wedding stationery designers, to hand-crafted wooden toys and food manufacturers.

One of the exhibitors John Spensley of Aycliffe Fabrications, in Newton Aycliffe, said: "A lot of people have been excited about this event. We've been waiting for something like this to come along and showcase what is excellent about what we make in County Durham."

Those sentiments were echoed by Cllr Morgan, who added: "I received favourable comments from every stand I visited. I'm now looking into making this an annual event as promoting County Durham and the high quality products we make here is something I am very passionate about. "For example, how many people know that the roof of King's Cross Station and the visitor centre at the Olympic Park in London were both made by County Durham companies?"

"But we've got to get out there and blow our own trumpets and let people know that this is what we do in County Durham do, and that we do it very well."

"Awareness and communication is fundamental and anything we can do by highlighting them at events such as this to help raise the profile of what we do well, is all the better."

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Golf Course Needs Investment

Dear Sir,

I notice the more vociferous correspondents against the proposed Woodham Golf Course development are from people who live there and have a vested interest in seeing the application turned down.

I understand their point of view (no pun intended), but they probably feel their investment in their home will be affected if this development proceeds. They should know however that in planning law they are not entitled to the view from their home and should look beyond their own selfish needs to see the benefit the new improved facilities at this site bring to the whole town.

The plan now has much fewer houses and will not have that great an impact on the landscape. In fact this sort of development is common place everywhere you travel in the world. Living on a golf course is very desirable and attracts families into the area, bringing high rateable value to the local economy. The golf course itself needs investment to keep it viable as the course trading figures clearly show. I think everyone would hate to lose this fine amentity, and without this investment it is possible.

A hotel for Aycliffe, at Woodham, and increased useage of the course with extra jobs, more than outweigh objections from a few locals who are using the "spoilt countryside" argument to support their nimbyism.

Fair Play
Name and address supplied.

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Gym Instructor Missed!

Dear Sir,

I wish to add my concerns to those of a previous correspondent who complained about the loss of a Fitness Instructor at the Aycliffe Gym.

I attended the Gym for a long while under the guidance of Rachel Hall and she helped me improve my fitness so that my everyday mobility is now much better.

On the occasions I have been ill or when I fell and could not attend she made a point of contacting me to ask if she could help. Her pleasant greeting, smile and advice will be a great miss.

I attended the Gym today and was not spoken to by any member of staff during my visit even though they said Rachel will be replaced.

Fit for Life should listen to people and return her to the job.

M. Punchion

Greenfield Open Art Exhibition & Craft Fair

The annual Greenfield Gallery Open Art Exhibition is a great opportunity for local artists and makers to showcase their creative talent.

This year's exhibition will open on Thursday 8th March 2012, and run until Wednesday 25th April.

Current submissions for the exhibition include paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolour, as well as photographs, and three-dimensional pieces in glassware, which means that we will have a varied and exciting exhibition.

We are receiving new submissions every day from artists across the region, and working hard to organise an exciting Craft Fair on the evening of the exhibition opening, Wednesday 7th March. The

Craft Fair is an opportunity for local crafters and makers to show off their creations, and a chance for local people to purchase unique handmade items.

The Craft Fair will also provide an opportunity for local people to learn about the work of Greenfield Community and Arts Centre, including a chance to try some crafts and art techniques on the evening!

If you are an artist or maker, and would like to be involved in this year's Open Art Exhibition & Craft Fair, please contact the Arts Centre (info@greenfield-arts.co.uk, 01325 379048), or pop in and see us and our fantastic current exhibition by Karen Syms "Tea for Two" on until Wednesday 1st February.

KDANZ SHOOT TO NEW HEIGHTS

After an amazing 2011, with a dance show at the Xcel Centre in March and a performance at Dinseyland Paris in July, KDANZ have started 2012 with even more exciting opportunities.

Not only do they begin the year with new adult fitness classes but they have also been asked to provide entertainment for all the DURHAM WILDCATS basketball home games, held at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

The first performance is on Saturday 21st January at 7pm with the Wildcats vs. Newcastle Eagles. It

will prove to be a night of excitement and with Sky TV covering the game in February KDANZ and DURHAM WILDCATS are hoping for your support!

So if you fancy coming along to watch a highly energetic basketball game or if you just wanna support the dance group, I'm sure it'd be fun for all the family! Tickets can be bought from Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre or Durham Wildcats booking line.

For more information about KDANZ and their classes contact Kay on 07900365892

Happy Time at Rose Lodge

On behalf of the residents and staff of Rose Lodge Care Home we would like to thank the following groups for making Christmas an extra special time.

Stephenson Way School, MAD Productions, Methodist Church, St Clares, Excel Church, the Rotary Club and not forgetting the Nursery children from House of Eden.

We would also like to thank Mandy and staff from the Bay Horse at Middridge for a lovely Christmas meal, followed by bingo. Also Collette and staff from the Cobblers Hall for a lovely afternoon where residents enjoyed having a glass of their favourite tipple or two.

Birthday Celebration

Irene Lamb celebrated her 90th birthday on Tuesday the 10th January 2012. She spent the morning at the home salon getting her hair done, and then joined residents to enjoy the afternoon being entertained by Noel. There was an interval for sherry, chocolates and canapés. Irene and all the residents had a brilliant time with some residents having a dance.

New Season for Spartans

Newton Aycliffe Spartans start pre-season training Sunday 28th January, at 10am till 13.00pm on the Horndale Field opposite Greenfield School. The First session is Free and open to everyone age 16 years old plus. The Season starts April 15th. Website www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk


Contact: 07772 525722 or john@newtonaycliffe.spartans.co.uk

Congratulations



Lee Walling

Happy 18th Birthday
7th January 2012
Hope you had a brilliant 18th. Love, S-J, Craig, Madison and Mackenzie xxxx



Brandon Travis

Happy 1st Birthday
To our beautiful little boy. Lots of love from Mam and Dad xxxx



Michael Howe

Happy 18th Birthday
To a wonderful Son, Brother, Grandson, Great Grandson, Nephew and Cousin. We all love you loads xxxx



Harry Abe Lee Surman

Happy 4th Birthday
11th January 2008
To our precious little boy Harry on your 4th birthday. Enjoy your day. Love always, Mammy, Daddy, Jack, Danielle and Craig xxx



Harry Bell

14th January 1996
Harry, you've won the hearts of everyone you've met. You've changed the lives of those you're around, just from the smile on your face. On your 16th birthday Harry, I hope that new and fantastic times come your way with new chances and beginnings. So very proud of you. Love you lots, Mam xxxx

Happy 16th birthday Harry. I am so proud of you. That's why this wish is sent with love especially for you. Love you always. Gran Brownbridge xxx

Happy 16th birthday to our wonderful Nephew. Love you. From Auntie Anne and Uncle John xxx



Samuel Adcock

Happy 13th Birthday Son
A teenager at last! Love ya lots. Mam and Mark xxx

Happy 13th Son
Love you always. Nana and Grandad Ainsley-Weighell xxx

Happy Birthday Bruv
Have a great day. All our love, Dan, Stacey, Jason and Becca xxx

Thank You

VALERIE GRAHAM would like to thank Colin, Samantha, Stephanie, Steven & Graham and ALL family and friends for a fantastic 50th birthday party.

SEAN CRONIN Karen would like to say a big thank you to all her family and friends for coming to say goodbye to Sean. Also thank you for all cards, texts, phone calls, flowers and visits. Hardy's Funeral Services, Rev Michael Pullan for a beautiful Service, Ann for the buffet, Ken Baldwin. Big thank you to my Brother Harry, Tony and Sarah. No words can describe how I feel about my Daughter Danielle and Son John. Thank you is not enough! Last but not least Denise and Paul, what would I do without you. Forever grateful. Wherever you are Sean, Happy birthday 11-1-12 xxx

In Memoriam

BILL BAKER 17th December 2010. One year on, still loved and sadly missed. Barbara

GORDON O'BRIEN Great friend, often thought of, sadly missed. Phil and Davey.

JOHN McNAMEE 15th January 2010. You left me lost and broken, I still can't find my way. Time has passed so slowly, and it's harder every day. I will never forget you, though we are worlds apart. I miss you so much Babes, and love you with all my heart. Always and forever yours, Jill xxx

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. Special memories for a special Mam, sadly missed. Loved forever. Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xxx

JEAN PARKER 11th January 2009. Thinking of you always Mam. Love and miss you forever. Love, Mandy xxx

BILL GATENBY 13th January 1990. Forever in our thoughts. Love from Wife Mary and family

ARNIE MILBURN Died 15th January 2010. Treasured memories of a dear Husband. Forever in my thoughts, always in my heart. Love, Brenda xxx

ARNIE MILBURN Loving memories of a dear Father. Sons, John, Daughter-in-Law Pam, Kevin, Partner Ann, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Remembered always xxx

SAMANTHA MADDISON 12-1-1994. No special day is needed for us to think of you. For you are always with us in everything we do. Your smile is in the sunshine, your laughter in the breeze. Your love is all around us it's in the air we breathe. Behind our smile there lies a tear for the Daughter we lost and loved so dear. We hold you close within our hearts. And there you will remain to walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again. We love you again. We love and miss you. Mam and Dad

SAMANTHA MADDISON Dear Sister and Aunt. Memories are a gift to treasure, our thoughts of you will last forever. Love, Nicola, Robert, Alexander and Lauren

SAMANTHA MADDISON Treasured memories of a dear Granddaughter and Niece. Love always, Grandad, Nana and Uncle John

SAMANTHA MADDISON Always in our thoughts. Love Auntie Eleanor and family

Birthday Remembrance

WHARTON-PEART, Noah Harry. Happy 5th birthday have a great day with the angels. Love and miss you, Granma

WHARTON-PEART, Noah Harry. 12.01.07. Happy 5th birthday baby, we miss you so much! Love always, Mammy, Daddy and little Sister Morgan x - another year over, another step closer to you.

PEART Noah Harry. 12th January. Happy birthday Noah. All our love and kisses, miss you every day. Love from Nana and Grandad

McLUCKIE Dear Ann, 13th January. You were a special Daughter, a special Sister too. And although you are no longer with us, we will never stop loving you. Love, Mam, Tony and family

Advertise in this section from just 15p per word contact **NEWTON PRESS** on 300212

Obituary

JOHN ALAN PARKER Aged 77 of Newton Aycliffe, died in hospital on 3rd January 2012. Will be sadly missed by Kay, Family and Friends. Funeral at Coundon Crematorium on Wednesday 18th January at 11.00am

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If you require more information simply contact our Reception on 01325 300600 between 9.30am – 9.30pm.

Newton Aycliffe's fine form continued with a 3-0 win at Jarrow Roofing last weekend – making it four wins on the trot. The victory in South Tyneside stretched the Newtonians' unbeaten run to five games, while it was also their second successive clean sheet following the 3-0 win at Stokesley on New Year's Day.

Goals by Dale Jardine, Nathan Wilson and Ben Wood secured Aycliffe's 14th win of the season to put them within six points of the top.

"We're in great form," beamed boss Allan Oliver. As I've always maintained, you tend to go through spells in this division, where you'll win a few games in a row, then you can't one.

"But we're going great guns at the minute and I can't fault the lads. The team spirit at the moment is superb, we're grinding out hard wins and all the points are precious if we're to maintain our top-six push."

Aycliffe are now just one point behind fifth-placed Spennymoor and six points from leaders Sunderland RCA, although the Blues have played more games than most. They have just 14 league games remaining before the end of the season on April 28, more than three months away.

But Oliver added: "It's good to have the points on the board and the pressure is on the other sides to win their games in hand.

"We'll have a relatively straight-forward run-in to the season, barring no bad weather, while others will have to cram games in, and that's when you get some silly results.

"We just have to keep going, stay focused on our own job by picking up points and the rest will look after itself."

Dan Mellanby returned to the starting 11 last Saturday, at the expense of Josh Knox, while John Close replaced the injured Mark Peck in the

FIXTURES

Saturday 14th January: Billingham Synthonia (A), 3pm
Saturday 21st January: Billingham Town (A), 3pm
Saturday 28th January: Ashington (H), 3pm
Saturday 4th February: South Shields (A), 3pm
Saturday 11th February: Shildon (H), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk

back-line. Josh Gray found himself at left-back as Oliver utilised his versatile pool. Sean Tarling, impressive all afternoon, linked well with Mellanby who superbly played Jardine through and the big striker finished off from 22 yards for his 10th goal in Aycliffe colours.

A second was needed before the turnaround and Oliver's men got it with the last kick off the half.

Mellanby was again involved and after beating two men, he played the ball square for Wilson to arrow a shot into the corner from 18 yards.

The Newtonians grabbed the third shortly after half-time when wing wizard Stuart Owen mesmerised his marker as he twice lifted the ball over his head before slotting through to the onrushing Wood to coolly finish under the advancing 'keeper.

Team: Pocklington, Gibson, J Gray, Tarling, Close, Craddock, Broom, Wilson, Jardine, Mellanby, Owen.

Subs used: B Wood, Oliver, McMullen. Unused: Knox, Black. Star man: Tarling.

• Aycliffe now face back-to-back away trips to Billingham, against Synthonia this weekend (January 14) followed by Town next Saturday (January 21).

The Supporters Club bus will leave Moore Lane at 1.45pm for both games, costing £5 members and £7 non-members. To book your seat contact Yvonne Wood on 07500 866535.

• The next home game at MLP is against Ashington on Saturday January 28.

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