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# NEWTON NEWS

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## TOWN'S FOOTBALL CLUB DESPERATE FOR HELP

Newton Aycliffe FC are on the brink of losing their star players after a chronic lack of business support has left them short of cash. Now their manager is pleading for help from local firms to help him keep his promising young squad together.

Northern League first division outfit Newton Aycliffe, who've won three promotions in the last four years, need more business backing if they're to continue the impressive progress they've made in recent seasons.

The club were runners-up in the Northern Echo Local Heroes awards in December after climbing from the parks of the Durham Alliance League to the Northern League top flight in emphatic fashion.

But Aycliffe manager Allan Oliver, whose side are currently sixth in their inaugural first division campaign this season, says he faces losing his top players if he doesn't get more support from the business community.

"It has reached a critical point where we desperately need more support from local firms," said Oliver, who runs his own reinforcing and steel fixing business. We've progressed at a rapid rate over the last three or four years and have overcome every hurdle up to now, winning the second division title last season.

"We're now enjoying a tremendous debut season in the first division, but that can only be maintained with more corporate support. As with everything in life, you get what you pay for, and to service a team in the top six of the Northern League comes at a price.

"We're competing against top clubs, with years of



tradition and big backing behind them, with a third of their budget, and that's testament to our lads and the fact they're with us for the right reasons.

"But if we're to keep this fantastic group of players together, we need more support, and if we don't get it over the next few weeks then we'll have to make some very difficult decisions which won't go down well with our brilliant supporters."

Aycliffe have seen a £350,000 redevelopment of their Moore Lane Park ground, based at Aycliffe Sports Club, to bring it up to

*continued on Page 3*

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## NEW ACTIVITIES AT THE PIONEERING CARE CENTRE

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has developed some new exciting activities to the long list of activities already taking place in the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

'Colour your Life' Arts on Prescription - two more sessions of the popular arts and crafts class have been organised to give more people access to mixed arts activities which promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

A family session now takes place on Fridays 3:30-5:30 and another class for adults on Saturday mornings, 10-12. The classes are free for the first 8 weeks and thereafter a donation towards materials will be invited.

All classes take place in pleasant surroundings and give everyone the chance to learn new skills, make new friends and relax in a friendly atmosphere.

Now that the New Year is upon us, among the many resolutions being made are to become healthier. The PCP has added the following fitness classes to help:

Kettlebells helps to increase your overall fitness and tone up your muscles with these cast iron weights. Combines weight work with cardio, burning calories

quickly. These classes run on Mondays from 5.15 - 6pm cost £3.50 and Wednesdays for over 40s from 1 - 2pm cost FREE and 5.15 - 6.15pm cost £3.50.

Boxing Aerobics is a cardiovascular workout based on boxing and martial arts moves which improves flexibility, core stability and cardiovascular fitness and provides a whole body workout - Saturdays 9.30 - 11.30am cost is £3.80.

Stretch and Tone Tai Chi with Yoga and Pilates which helps strengthen, stretch and tone your body and calm the mind - Saturdays 10.30 - 11.30am cost £3.80.

Further details from the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF

Tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net : www.pcp.uk.net.

## Artists Invited to Design Bus Livery

Arriva North East is appealing for people to let their imagination run wild and redesign a bus from top to bottom.

Budding designers and art buffs are being invited to think of a bus as a blank canvas, and consider how it can be transformed into a work of art. The winning design will then be brought to life on a real Arriva bus. Nigel Featham, managing director for Arriva North East said: "We want people to come up with some really creative ideas for our Art Bus. The design could reflect your local area, or be completely abstract - it's entirely up to you!"

"This exciting project provides a unique opportunity for someone to showcase their talent to potentially thousands of people. We're really looking forward to seeing what designs people come up with."

Once the paint has dried and the gadgets have been fitted, the new-look vehicle

will embark on a national tour, promoting the bus as a greener and cost effective alternative to the car.

For more information

about the Arriva Art Bus and details about how to submit your design, please visit [www.arrivabus.co.uk/artbus/](http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/artbus/)

## Royal British Legion

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### "TAKE MORE OF THAT"

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## 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**

Friday 19th October, Newcastle Arena - £42.50

**Andre Rieu**

Saturday 15th December, Newcastle Arena - £79.50

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## Explore the County With the Ramblers

It might still be frosty outside but if you wrap up warm, there's plenty of exploring to be done. With a new year stretching out before us, Ramblers Get Walking Keep Walking Durham has created a series of short, easy, accessible weekend walks around the county, free for anyone to join!

The Ramblers are encouraging you to start your year outdoors, spending quality time with your loved ones whilst enjoying fresh air and exercise. There's already an exciting line up to take you right through to Spring, so don't waste a second, get your whole family involved. Marianne Patterson, Get Walking Keep Walking project co-ordinator, said: "There's no need to wait until it's warmer to start enjoying the outdoors.

We've compiled a whole series of easy walks to get the blood flowing and continue our successful walking programme into the New Year. This year our aim is to make these walks a family affair, to encourage people to spend quality time together in beautiful surroundings.

All the walks are easy enough for everyone to join and are full of interesting sights to keep the whole family entertained and invigorated. Join us as we march away the winter cobwebs and walk right into Spring!"

**This week's highlighted walk: Sunday 22nd January at 10am**

Join us this Sunday for a picturesque 4.5 mile circular walk from Barnard Castle to Stainton with walk leader, Jo Bird. Free step counter and Get Walking pack for every walker to help you start counting those steps and burning off those mince

pies! A brisk walk can easily burn 100 calories per mile (that knocks off one mince pie every 2 miles) so by joining this walk you and your family will be on your way to a healthy 2012. Meet at Barnard Castle surgery, Victoria Road, DL12 8HT The Ramblers CPAL funded 'Get Walking Keep Walking Durham' is aimed at those who are at risk of developing heart disease and their families - showing people how to build walking into part of their regular routine and become healthier and happier as a result.

With FREE led walks along interesting routes around your local area, friendly group support and a step counter and log book to monitor your progress - you'll find it's easy to Get Walking and Keep Walking.

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## THE TURBINIA \* Saturday Night Live \*

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### 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 dont think I have ever heard better. I usually refer to him as 'more Bon than Bon' but dont 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 dont 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](http://www.tommyandtheoddballs.website.orange.co.uk)

### Saturday 4th February - "RELOAD"

Recent review: "With Reload you know what you're getting? Classic Rock songs covering the spectrum from Free to Deep Purple and everything in between, played by a band that confidently knows what it's doing, and does it extremely well. Check out the music videos and music files on their website for a fair representation of what the band is all about. No one leaves when this band is playing" - Don't miss them! - "Classic Rock never sounded better" Rebooked after a very successful debut gig last year at the tub - [www.reloadonline.co.uk](http://www.reloadonline.co.uk)

For more information on bands go to

**[www.turbiniapub.co.uk](http://www.turbiniapub.co.uk) or 313034**

*Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke*



## Ten Finalists in Aycliffe Talent Show

The time has come when the preparing for the grand finals of Young Newton Aycliffe's Got Talent are almost complete. All that is needed now is for the people of Newton Aycliffe to come along and support these very talented young people from around the area.

There are 10 acts keen to perform in the Grand Final on 21st January at 4p.m. to be held at the Youth Centre on Burn Lane, opposite Tesco's.

Prizes, on the night will be presented by representatives of our three sponsors. First prize will be presented by Peter Robinson from Nordic Pioneer, with Vince Crosby the Chairman of the Youth Centre Management Committee presenting the prize to the second act and Tom Hunter the chairman of Aycliffe Youth Council presenting the third prize. The Mayor Mary Dalton will also be attending the event and invitations have been sent to all members of Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Dave Brittle head judge and vocalist in local group 'The Hyads' said "It has been a privilege to support this event and I am, with the rest of the judges, looking forward to the finals".

Joan Clark Secretary of the Youth Centre added "We look forward to launching next year's competition around Easter when we will be showcasing this year's event and some of the judges will be joining the contestants in a night of entertainment."

"I would like to thank all the judges, members from The Hyads and teachers from KDANZ along with Tommy Raitt who is well known locally for his singing and guitar playing".

Registration Forms will be available on that night for next year's event. Tickets for the final are £1.50 if reserved in advance by emailing Joan Clark on joanclark2011@live.co.uk.

If you want to buy your tickets on the door they will cost £2.00.

## Help Needed to Preserve Great Aycliffe's Heritage

The members of St Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village would like to thank the people of the town and village for their continued support in the restoration of Church's ancient churchyard.

Just over two years ago the DCC took the brave decision with the support of the PCC of Great Aycliffe, to restore the ancient memorials in the old graveyard aware that many of the families would be hard to find. We began raising funds to cover the cost, and our thanks go to all who have supported us over the past two years. To date with help from several families we were able to trace, and money raised, we have been able to restore seventeen headstones.

Sadly rising costs mean that without funding we may not be able to continue the work as we still need approximately £5,000.

Many people ask why it is important to restore the memorials and the answer is simple. St Andrews Church yard with its eighteenth and nineteenth century headstones yields a wealth of information about local and family history that is not easily found anywhere else.

Not only can families be traced but a picture of the

health and social life of the village and town can be painted. St Andrews is also very proud of the five individual headstones of men who died during the two world wars and our war memorial commemorating the men who gave their lives for there country, and several other memorials in the old churchyard, also have great historic significance.

St Andrew's churchyard is our link to our past and it is full of individuals and families who contributed in so many ways to the village and surrounding area. It is out of respect for the legacy that they gave in shaping the village and town that we endeavour to restore the churchyard so that future



Rev. Julie Wing



generations may enjoy the rich heritage of this area.

We are always delighted when people from the village and the town approach us and ask what they can do to help and we would welcome enquiries from local firms, businesses, and individuals if they feel able to support the project. Simply contact Revd Julie Wing on 320278 if you can help in anyway.

Every donation we receive brings us closer to completing our project and so we especially thank The Cubby for their kind donation and for organising the forthcoming Race Night. We hope that with the continued support of both the village and the town we can all enjoy the rich heritage St Andrews brings to Newton Aycliffe and that future generations may continue to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquillity that is St Andrews.

## POLICE WARN MINI MOTOR CYCLISTS

Due to recent complaints from concerned residents regarding the misuse of mini motos and off road motor cycles in the Newton Aycliffe area, the beat team will be conducting an operation to target those who use our paths and grassed areas as a race track. We would urge all residents to report anyone who uses these bikes to the team. If you know any of your neighbours who has

one of these bikes and stores it in their shed or garage we would like to know about it.

We will also be asking for the assistance of our off road bike team to help come and tackle this issue.

So for those of you who use these bikes you have been warned!

If you have any information which may assist the team then please get in touch 0345 60 60 365 or on the new 101 number

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**Zumba Free Taster**  
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or

**Wednesday 25th January** from **7pm to 8pm**

at **Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Shildon**

Classes continue in both venues weekly at times and days listed



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## TOWN'S FOOTBALL CLUB DESPERATE FOR HELP

*Continued from Front Page:*

strict FA ground regulations, making it one of the most modern non-league set-ups in the region. They also enjoy some of the biggest crowds in the Northern League, averaging more than 200 for home games.

Oliver, who previously managed Crook Town and West Auckland, added: "The great thing about us is that we have a fantastic new facility which is more than good enough for our level of football, so we don't need a great deal of investment off the field. We have everything in place, a hugely-promising young squad full of enthusiasm currently sitting sixth in the first division, so the potential is there for a business, or businesses, to really take things forward."

"As a businessman myself, I appreciate we're in a difficult economic environment right now, but we're not talking about a huge amount of money. We have a hard-working committee of volunteers making sure everything is taken care of behind the scenes, we just simply need football-minded backers who have the passion and ambition to take us to the next level."

Anyone who'd like to discuss sponsorship opportunities with Aycliffe, or for an informal chat, can call Allan on 07976 780369.

Aycliffe stretched their unbeaten league run to six games with a hard-fought 0-0 draw at ninth-placed Billingham Synthonia last Saturday.

It was a third consecutive clean sheet for the patched-up Newtonians, who went level with champions Spennymoor in fifth, after their unlucky Durham Challenge Cup defeat at home to Shildon, which attracted a crowd of 274 at Moore Lane Park. Steven Johnson scored in the third minute of injury time to put Shildon into the quarter-finals.

Aycliffe go to Billingham Town this Saturday (January 21). The Supporters Club bus will leave Moore Lane at 1.45pm, 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.

**FIXTURES**

Saturday January 21st: Billingham Town (A), 3pm

Saturday January 28th: Ashington (H), 3pm

Saturday February 4th: South Shields (A), 3pm

Saturday February 11th: Shildon (H), 3pm

Saturday February 18th: Consett (A), 3pm

Saturday February 25th: Marske United (H), 3pm

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# YEAR 11 STUDENTS PERFORM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Greenfield Year 11 BTEC Drama group have worked with two primary schools recently. Their Theatre in Education play explores hoax calls. Year 5 and 6 pupils from Stephenson Way and Byerley Park watched the performance and then the Year 11's led a drama workshop which explores the issue. They received excellent reviews for each session from staff and pupils.

- The best play I have ever seen!
- The experience was exciting and fun!
- My experience has been amazing! I loved how there were different scenes and such brilliant acting!
- You must let other schools see it!
- I loved all of the afternoon, and meeting the STARS and doing drama with them!
- The experience has been really fun and energetic and helped boost your confidence!
- Fun, exciting and interesting. I now know not to make hoax calls it can be dangerous!
- I loved today and enjoyed the performance the most. I have also learnt how we should not waste people's time. Think you have taught us a lot and I think you are all really good teachers and actors, and I had lots of fun!

The STARS group will continue to perform the play to primary schools next term.

## Darlington Proposal on School Transport

Dear Sir,

As part of a cost savings exercise Darlington Borough Council are proposing to remove the category of Associated Transport from the school code of emissions. What this means in layman's terms is that school children from Heighington Parish which includes the Chestnuts will receive free transport to school only if they choose to attend either Darlington School of Science and Mathematics (Branksome) or Longfield instead of Carmel or Hummersknott. The council's proposal will also stop all faith transport.

If you are concerned about these proposals you are invited to a Meeting that I have organised in Heighington Primary School on Wednesday, 25th January starting at 7pm. Mr Murray Rose, DBC Director of Place, Rachel Jones, Placements and Assets Manager Children, Families and Learning People Services, will be talking on the proposal itself and Mr Pat Howarth, Hummersknott Headmaster, Ms Maura Regan, Headmistress of Carmel School and Mr Neil Parker will reply, followed by questions/comments from

the audience.

The proposals will go to Cabinet on February 22nd when a decision will be made. It is important therefore that everyone understands that this is your opportunity to have your say. Do not leave it for others to do so. There are parents who are organising a Petition and they need your help and support. For my part, I have sent and received lots of emails objecting to the proposals. I have met with all the headmasters and more recently, Sarah Booth from Redworth and I had a positive meeting with Mr Phil Wilson, MP for Sedgefield. Headmasters are having meetings. I have heard rumours that discussions are ongoing within the Town Hall about change although they have not been confirmed. There is lots of activity being done by lots of people – now it is your turn to support everyone who is trying to have the proposed changes to Associated Transport defeated. If you are concerned over the education of your child then please attend the school meeting even if you do not want to speak – Numbers DO matter. Councillor Gerald G. Lee

# KEEPING TOWN CENTRES

The demise of Town Centres is in the news and many reasons are given why people are deserting their own shopping precincts in favour of out of town retail parks and internet shopping.

Cost and convenience is the answer most people give and if we track back we can see that town centres are guilty of their own downfall, but the blame is not down to shopkeepers.

In my view it goes back a few years before alternative means of shopping evolved when Landlords got too greedy and the local authorities started to impose car parking charges. High rents, service charges, increased business rates and other on-costs saw profits from town centre shopkeeping reduced.

The giant retailers began to look to save costs and moved out of town where low land prices brought reduced rents and overheads.

This was a revolution in retailing and one stop shopping with easy parking won over the shoppers. Now on top of this there are even more savings on cost and time by purchasing on-line.

This has badly affected the "small shopkeeper and the loss of most

private businesses, particularly noticeable in our town centre.

So it is no wonder town centres are struggling and the current debate is forcing landlords to review their letting policies and rentals. No longer can they expect to lease shops for 25 years and charge high rents. The prospective shopkeeper now has the upper hand and can almost dictate their own terms.

Newton Aycliffe's new development could show the way and it is an opportunity for our Town Centre landlords to adopt a more radical approach in competing with internet and out of town retailers. Shopkeepers will have to wise up too with prices and service to equal, if not better, than the competition. Aycliffe is fortunate to have no car parking charges and this must continue.



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# STUDENTS VISIT HOME OF NEWCASTLE UNITED



A dozen Year 8 students from Woodham Community Technology College enjoyed the chance to experience Premiership footballing facilities, with a behind the scenes tour of Newcastle United's Sports Direct Arena. The tour, which was organised with Martin Gray's Football Academy, encompassed all the different aspects of life at the football club and the students were able to see all the corporate

suites at the club as well as the extravagant corporate boxes that are bought seasonally for thousands of pounds. The highlight for the staff and students on the tour, however, was the chance to experience this impressive stadium from the view of the Premiership footballers who grace the turf. Students were able to walk down the tunnel to the pitch side, sit in the dugouts and visit both the home and away dressing rooms. The students

enjoyed sitting on the same seats as their footballing heroes and seeing the players' shirts which were already laid out for the next home match. The group (which comprised of a number of different footballing allegiances) were superbly looked after by their tour guide, Bob, who was also able to share anecdotes from his days acting as Sir Bobby Robson's chauffeur. There was even a chance to be photographed with Newcastle United legend Peter Beardsley who was returning to the stadium after leading a training session for the club's youth academy. A great day was had by all!

# MOURNING CAN BREAK YOUR HEART

Mourning the loss of a loved one is a tough time both emotionally and physically and the heart can come under a great deal of extra pressure. A recent study of 1,985 heart attack patients found that the chance of a heart attack is 21 times higher during the first day of bereavement and six times higher during the first week. What's more, the risk continues to stay elevated for at least a month. The results, published in the journal Circulation clearly show how keeping your heart strong and healthy can help to withstand the strain that comes with losing a loved one or other severe emotional upheaval.

Bereavement is one of the most stressful times in your life so here are some coping techniques to help you and your loved ones through this difficult time.

Try not to spend time alone. Surround yourself with family and neighbours who can help you keep to a daily routine. Take a long walk in the fresh air with someone you find it easy to talk to about how you're feeling. Walking will help to lower

blood pressure, reduce your stress levels and help you sleep better.

If you're on prescribed medication don't forget to take it and see your doctor if you're feeling unwell for advice.

People really do want to help so accept offers of practical help if you need to and remember, professional help may be available. Ask your GP to refer you to a bereavement counselling service or seek out a specialist support group.

Bereavement is, sadly, part of life but keeping your own heart healthy will help you to cope better with the strain and emotional upheaval it brings.

## POLICE DROP IN SESSIONS

Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police Team are holding various "Drop In" sessions across the town to enable members of the public to speak to their local beat officers to address any issues of concern to them in their area.

Crime Prevention Officers will also be on hand to give advice

The next session will be held at Neville Community Centre, Neville Parade on Friday 3rd February from 2pm - 4pm. Everyone welcome.

# DONATION SUPPORTS SERVICES FOR THE BLIND



Over 300 visually impaired people will benefit from a donation towards the running costs of a talking newspaper. Homes and communities company livin has donated £500 to County Durham Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted. The company regularly calls upon the services of the charity to convert its tenants' magazine and information pamphlets into audio format for its blind and partially sighted customers. The £500 donation will help produce a talking newspaper that is sent every week to sight-impaired residents allowing them to keep up to date with news in their local community as well as find out about useful services that are available in the area. For more details about the society call 0191 386 8175.

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## Messy Sessions for Parent & Child



Artist Yvonne Preston is inviting parent and child to come along and get involved in art and craft activities discovering recycled materials and creative ideas. A hands-on opportunity to explore and play together in an environment suitable for messy play. It's not necessarily about the end product but the exciting and absorbing journey they go on to create their own masterpiece. Free to explore, discover and experiment and try out ideas, Yvonne says she hopes to offer essential

quality time with your child in a safe and friendly environment. For children ages 1 - 5 years, accompanied by their own adult. 50 minute sessions, for a maximum of 15 children per session. Cost per child: £4 and £3 per sibling, to be paid per half term. Sessions are held on Tuesday afternoons at Heighington Village Hall, 1.15-2.05pm or 2.20-3.10pm. Contact No: 07727 706 335 (yvonneangelapreston@hotmail.com)

**THE IRON HORSE**  
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**"RED LETTERS"**  
on FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2012

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**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Customer Panel Meeting**

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:

**TUESDAY 31st JANUARY 2012**

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on Tuesday, 31st January 2012 commencing at 6.00pm. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

**"At this meeting the Council's Aims and Targets will be discussed and Officers from the Park Patrol Service will be in attendance".**

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting - we look forward to seeing and meeting new members. Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700, e-mail: [Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

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

**Wedding Fayre**

**Blackwell Grange Hotel**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 12-4 pm**

**Exclusive Fashion Show in association with Butterflies Bridal & Occasion Wear**

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## REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY

There were two issues of particular interest on the Environment Committee:

The first was two requests to fell or prune trees. The Town Council receives such requests from time to time; however, I hope readers will agree that it is very difficult for the Town Council to agree cut down woodland, which is there for the whole community, for the benefit or convenience of an individual householder.

Not least, there is the matter of precedence – all the community woodland in the town is in amongst housing, and if we agree cut down some woodland because (as in some past requests) a householder finds it irksome to clean leaves out of their guttering, then we could end up cutting down large areas.

The Town Council considers each case on its merits – in these most recent cases, the Chair of Environment and myself went out with the Works Manager to inspect the sites. However, the decision on both cases was to decline the specific requests. Instead, the Town Council has recently commissioned a survey of its woodland, and will be cutting down any unhealthy or potentially unsafe trees.

On a happier note, officers reported that there was no vandalism at all over the

holiday period, so well done the youth of Aycliffe. The Council is keen to foster a sense of appreciation of the wonderful environment we are lucky enough to live in, so let's hope that our young people are learning to protect, not wreck, that environment. There were four issues I will report from the Recreation Committee:

The play area at Byerley Park has now been refurbished – we hope you will agree that it looks fabulous.

Members accepted quotes for the Senior Citizens' free day-trips this summer; the destinations will be the Lakes, South Shields, Scarborough, Blackpool, Dumfries and Skipton. This is a service which the Town Council is inordinately proud to provide.

A new catering Manager has been appointed at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The cheap, excellent meals available at the Oak Leaf (both for individuals and groups) are one of Aycliffe's best-kept secrets, and Councillors expressed the hope that more people will start using the Complex restaurant.

County Councillors Enid Paylor and Mike Dixon asked the Town Council's permission to fund public fitness equipment in West Park.

Members, properly, asked a number of questions relating to safety, liability, insurance and associated costs, but agreed in principle to accept this exciting and worthy project.  
JCL

## 400 Object to Golf Course Plan

Dear Sir,

I write in reply to the person who says the only people objecting to proposals to build on Woodham Golf Course are those who live around the course.

This is entirely wrong as the only houses affected by any loss of view are those near the current clubhouse.

It is common talk at the club that some of the owners of houses have been offered "sweeteners" not to object - some of these were among the most ardent objectors to the previous application.

There have been over 400 letters of objection sent to the Planning Authority and most are against the urban sprawl, building on open countryside, spoiling the entrance to the town and against a development that is not wanted or needed in that beautiful countryside.

Woodham Golfer  
Name & address supplied.

## Window Job By Top Guy

Dear Sir,

Over the last three years I had some real problems with cowboys i.e. The bathroom installation was a shambles and I had to get another plumber to sort it. Also, a new roof put on the house that was not completed correctly - more additional expense!

So it was with some trepidation that I started looking for someone to install new double glazing. One company couldn't even be bothered to keep appointments or even return several phone calls.

I then saw the advertisement in Newton News for "The Window Guy" who came out at the agreed time and understood my concerns about previous work done by others and assured me he would do the job right.

I took the decision to go ahead and I'm glad I did. The double glazing installation went like clockwork, nothing was too much trouble, he even came round to do one last check on the measurements.

The area was tidied each night, the job was finished on time, at the right quality and a very good price.

I never normally write to the newspaper, but I was so pleased with the work. The Window Guy restored my faith in the building trade.  
Name & Address Supplied

## COLOUR YOUR LIFE AT THE PCP CENTRE

The Pioneering Care Centre are delighted to announce two more sessions of the popular arts and crafts class, 'Colour Your Life'.

Currently the mixed craft sessions for adults run on a Friday morning 10am-12noon and afternoon 12:30-2:30pm, but due to popular demand an additional class has been organised for a Saturday morning 10am-12noon, giving more people access to a range of creative activities which promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

This is a fantastic opportunity to learn a new craft from professional artists. All classes take place in pleasant surroundings and give everyone the chance to learn new skills, make new friends and relax in a friendly atmosphere.

A family session has also been arranged to take place on a Friday 3:30-5:30pm to encourage all ages to get creative. This fantastic class is packed with easy, fun projects and activities such as painting, sculpture, graffiti and dance, allowing youngsters to express themselves in a



variety of ways.

The classes are free for the first 8 weeks and thereafter a donation towards materials will be invited.

A current participant said, "I didn't quite know what to expect but I gave it a go and everyone is so friendly. I'm no artist but love

the opportunity to try different things whilst meeting new people. I'd recommend Colour Your Life to everyone!"

Why not contact Daniel Fletcher, County 'Colour Your Life' Project Officer today to find out more? Tel: 321234 Email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net

# move on homes

Newton Press Buildings, St. Cuthberts Way  
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX  
**Tel: 01325 311737**  
[www.moveonhomes.co.uk](http://www.moveonhomes.co.uk)

Mellanby Crescent  
Newton Aycliffe  
£122,000



Much improved three bedroom end terrace home, fitted kitchen, double glazing, modern bathroom, gardens, well placed

Oakfield  
Newton Aycliffe  
£100,000



3 bedroom terrace property. Lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner, garage, DG, easy maintenance gardens

Chapman Close  
Newton Aycliffe  
£89,000



Two bedroom end terrace, corner of a popular residential area. Lounge, fitted kitchen/dining room, utility, bathroom, DG & CH

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 (£550) Application fee and references required

North Road  
Darlington  
Reduced to £75,000



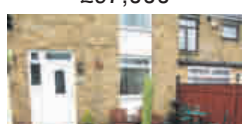
Two storey terraced commercial property, has a good potential to be transformed into flats. Enclosed rear yard.

Hatfield Road  
Newton Aycliffe  
£112,500



3 bedroom mid terrace property. Close to local amenities. Central Heating, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room uPVC Double Glazing with enclosed gardens. Immediate possession

Beechfield  
Newton Aycliffe  
£97,000



Four bedroom terraced home, downstairs WC, kitchen/dining room, lounge, garage, driveway with 2 off road parking spaces, DG and GCH. No chain

Bewick Crescent  
Newton Aycliffe  
£87,950



An extended two bedroom end terrace house, Fitted kitchen/diner, modern bathroom/W.C. Well maintained home

Merz Road  
Newton Aycliffe  
£90,000



Impressive 3 bed end terrace, well maintained. GCH, D/ glazing, modern kitchen. Pleasantly situated, viewing strongly recommended

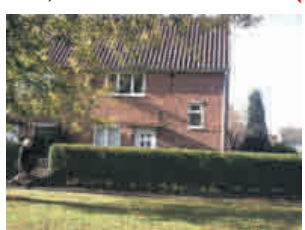
Sunnydale  
Shildon £80,000



A 3 bed semi, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/WC, 3 beds + family bathroom, front and rear gardens, paving, flower borders and storage shed

Bowes Road  
Newton Aycliffe  
£80,000

REDUCED



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



Kestrel Court  
Newton Aycliffe  
£139,999



Three bedroom detached property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, garden and garage. GCH, DG

Guthrum Place  
Newton Aycliffe  
£89,000



3 bedroom end link house in a modern development in Newton Aycliffe. Fitted kitchen, DG, GCH and rear garden. Must be viewed

Emerson Way  
Newton Aycliffe  
£69,000 ono

REDUCED



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

**ANNAND WAY**  
3 bed detached - £160,000  
**KARLES CLOSE**  
4 bed detached - £235,000  
**IDA PLACE**  
3 bed end terrace - £75,950  
**BEECHFIELD**  
3 bed end link - £75,000  
**HONISTER PLACE**  
3 bed end terrace - £65,000  
**LINGARD WALK**  
3 bed terrace - £115,000  
**CHILLINGHAM GROVE**  
3 bed semi - £115,000  
**FINCHALE ROAD**  
3 bed detached - £179,850  
**SKIRLAW ROAD**  
3 bed end terrace - £92,500

**2, 3 & 4 Bed Properties Wanted**



## Squash at the Oak Leaf

Here at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex we have four squash courts available for hire in 45 minute sessions, and Non Members are always very welcome. If 'competition' is high on your list there are Leagues for you to join, or our very own friendly Squash Club, who are always willing to help. If you've never tried before, or not played for a while, or just fancy a knock about, we can hire you the equipment. So, no matter what your level of play why not come and give it a go? Please telephone our Reception on 300600 for more details.

## LEAP YEAR CHANCE FOR MARRIAGE

Ladies are you planning to use the leap year as an excuse to pop the question this year?

Traditionally 29th February is the only date women can propose to their man so sieze the opportunity!

## DEATH OF ONE OF AYCLIFFE F.C.'s MOST ARDENT SUPPORTERS

FRANK BATLEY 1935-2012

Google the word 'generosity' and the first result you'll see is Wikipedia's definition of the word: 'Generosity is the habit of giving freely without expecting anything in return.' If only Google could rank people in their results for 'generosity', because that's one of many words which sums up Frank Batley, who sadly passed away peacefully at Bethany House on Boxing Day, aged 76.

Last week Moore Lane Park fell silent for a minute, before his beloved Newton Aycliffe team took on derby rivals Shildon, to celebrate his life. If I was to pick out one day



which defined the man, it would be a chilly February afternoon on the West coast of Cumbria when we'd all made the windy trek to Whitehaven as Allan Oliver's side hoped to continue a remarkable unbeaten run.

Frank came prepared and he'd already been dishing out pork pies and sausage rolls from his bag of treats. He wouldn't go to any game without his trademark matchday pendant, a bag full of Black Bullets.

Everyone was in jovial spirits, but Whitehaven hadn't read the script as they took an early two-goal lead. However, on came Dan Mellanby to inspire a superb comeback for Aycliffe who won 4-2.

The celebrations began at Whitehaven's Focus Scaffolding Sports Complex, but the post-match food left a lot to be desired. "Not to worry," said Frank, as he proceeded to dish out about 30 Mars bars among his fellow Newtonians. "You're a life-saver, Frank!" munched one of the players.

The Aycliffe bus bounced back across the Pennines, celebrating a brilliant win, but

Frank wasn't done with his hand-outs, as a bottle of Bells Whisky next appeared from his Mary Poppins-style hold-all. And so Frank's new nickname was coined. "He's the beard-less Santa!" said one slightly inebriated player, and it stuck. A man who was already one of the most popular faces at MLP - who was later crowned Supporter of the Year - had just earned himself legendary status.

It was no surprise to see a packed Neville's Parade Methodist Church on Wednesday January 4th, as Aycliffe players, management and fans joined his family and friends for a beautiful Service. Frank was born on November 9th, 1935, in Leadgate, but spent nearly all his childhood and young adult life in Consett. He worked as a bricklayer and served in Cyprus during his National Service. He enjoyed gardening and dancing, which brought he and wife Sylvia together. They married in 1960 and moved to Newton Aycliffe to bring up their daughters, Angela and Sandra.

Frank will be hugely missed by his daughters, their families, his many friends and, of course, everyone at Newton Aycliffe FC, who will all have their own recollections of a brilliant man.

One day in Whitehaven is my favourite memory. Others, I'm sure, will have theirs... Martin Walker

## Tesco Prices Penalise Single People

Dear Sir,  
I am a Senior Citizen who enjoys a fresh Jam Doughnut. If I want to buy one from Tesco I pay 28 pence each but buy TEN and they only charge 10 pence each! Is this differential justified and fair for single people living alone?

I tried buying ten doughnuts for a pound but after eating one a day for five days the remaining five had deteriorated to a consistency which resembles cardboard so they had to be thrown away.

Bulk buying might bring savings for large families, but it certainly doesn't help single pensioners!

George Oakley  
Ryder Court

## Motorbikes on Walkways

Dear Sir,  
I would like people to know that my son Gary William nearly got knocked down by a motorbike in Ross Walk. I was pleased my daughter Laura was playing nearby and grabbed Gary back from danger. Even though she did that the biker was so close to Gary's foot, so I hate to think of what would have happened if she was not there. Something must be done to stop this!

Eileen Edwards

## Miller Homes Firstbuy Scheme Cheaper Than Renting

After scouring through property pages for accommodation to suit their pocket, an Aycliffe couple came across an advert for the Government's equity loan scheme Firstbuy, which house builder Miller Homes was offering on homes at its Cobblers Hall development in the town.

The advert explained that the couple could easily afford to buy a brand new home with the FirstBuy scheme as they only needed a minimal deposit and by breaking down what the monthly mortgage repayments showed it was cheaper than average monthly rental costs in the area.

Firstbuy is the Government's latest purchase assistance scheme and it is expected to assist around 10,500 buyers onto the property ladder over the next two years.

If you qualify for the Firstbuy scheme you will have the opportunity to select one of properties available from Miller Homes of which you will own 100% of the property by paying up to 80% of the value now, with both Miller Homes and the Government equally funding the remaining 20% in the form of an equity loan.

Emma and John purchased a three-bedroom Gissing house type with detached single garage at the Cobblers Hall development priced £155,000 but with the assistance of FirstBuy they only paid 80% of the price now, with the rest supported by the low interest loan. Emma said: "John and I have been going out with



each other for 10 years and we really felt that now was the time for us to settle down and get a place of our own.

We had outgrown living with our parents and wanted our own space and independence. "After hearing all the gloomy news headlines about banks not lending and the number of people buying homes at an all time low, I thought it would be impossible for us to buy a home of our own and thought renting was our only option."

"We saw an ad for the Miller Homes Firstbuy scheme in our local newspaper and went down to the sales office and show room for a look around. The Miller Homes sales adviser had lots of experience in schemes to help first time buyers and put us in touch with their team of independent financial advisers who guided us through the processes and lo and behold, we found our

dream home and a package we could afford with FirstBuy.

"When we thought there was no hope, Miller Homes really did show us that buying was possible and cheaper than renting."

In the sought-after residential area on the northern edge of Newton Aycliffe, Cobblers Hall is a spacious, family friendly development that combines its peaceful setting with convenient access to the A1, Durham and Darlington. A special episode of Miller Homes TV is now available to guide viewers through all they need to know about Firstbuy. Log onto www.millerhomes.tv to view the latest episode. FirstBuy is also available on other Miller Homes developments across the North East visit www.millerhomes.co.uk for more information.

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Prizes for Year 11 Students at  
Greenfield & Woodham College

Most Helpful Student at School  
Most Active Student in the Community  
Top Academic Student  
Top Sport Student  
Most Improved Student

PRIZES AWARDED AT  
THE SUMMER 2012  
YEAR 11 PROMS



NEW CATEGORY:  
Greenfield  
Art Award: Camera  
Woodham  
Technology Award: Camera

Sponsored by Tesco, iTec  
Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Management,  
Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club, Honest John  
Newton Press and Newton News

Most Helpful at School - Camera  
Most Active in the Community - Camera  
Top Academic Student - Ipod  
Top Sport Student - Ipod  
Most Improved Student - PC Tablet

All winners are chosen by teachers.





# Victory for Aycliffe Bowls Club



On Sunday 15th January Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club welcomed the Men's Presidents of the English Indoor Bowling Association to the Oak Leaf. Six Presidents attended which is the most any club has been privileged to host. Four teams of four players competed and Aycliffe Men's Section won by 16 shots. The best rink was presented with EIBA Spoons. Afterwards the visitors received good hospitality with superb catering provided by the Oak Leaf and a great day was enjoyed by all.

## New Courses Offer Job Opportunities

Fancy a Career in Childcare, or want to know more about Customer Care?

New courses for job seekers at the Pioneering Care Centre

The Pioneering Care Partnership (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).

For people who would like to play a role in shaping the lives of future generations there are 'Introduction to' courses in Youth Work, Childcare and Play work. The courses offer an insight into the rewards of working with children and young people, and what study and career routes are available. For those who are more business minded there is an Introduction to Administration and/or Customer Care. 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. The sessions provide key information about the subject and the friendly 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.

All courses run subject to sufficient demand and it is recommended that places are booked as soon as possible".

To enquire further call 01325 321234 or email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net or pop in to the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4SF. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

# CHANGES IN RESPITE CARE

Changes to the way respite care is provided in County Durham are to be discussed by councillors next week.

Proposals to be considered by Durham County Council's Cabinet look at ways to ensure people's needs are met while taking into account changes in demand for different types of respite care as well as the need for services to be cost effective. The proposals include plans to close Dean Lodge learning disability respite care service, in Ferryhill. A report to Cabinet makes it clear that those who use Dean Lodge would continue to receive respite care in line with their assessed level of need if the closure is agreed.

The report states that the council remains committed to meeting people's needs for respite services but must also take into account changes in demand, new opportunities offered elsewhere in social care and the need to ensure services operate efficiently and represent the best value for money.

Nick Whitton, Durham County Council's head of

commissioning for adult services, said: "We know that Dean Lodge is very popular with the people who use it but we must respond to the changes in demand for respite services and the need to make savings in the light of the financial pressures the council is facing.

"If the decision is taken to close Dean Lodge the council is committed to ensuring that people continue to receive the respite services they need with as little disruption as possible." The council will ensure that there will be sufficient alternative services available to meet the needs of people who currently use Dean Lodge. The council already has extensive experience of supporting people with a learning disability to make transitions between different services.

Staff would ensure that any new service would be fully aware of an individual's care and health needs, personal preferences and other important factors. Arrangements would also be made for people to have

a gradual introduction to a new type of care should that be required to support them through the change.

The council spends approximately £1.7m a year on learning disability respite services, provided through its facilities at Dean Lodge, in Ferryhill, at Hawthorn House, in Durham City, through its 'shared lives' scheme or by independent care services.

Typically it costs around £1,730 per week for someone to attend Dean Lodge, compared to £1,295 per week for similar, independently run services.

The council carried out a review of respite services for adults with learning disabilities last year. This included a consultation with people who use respite services and with carers.

The review was part of the council's work to save at least £145.8m over 5 years between 2011 and 2016 in response to reductions in Government funding. Cabinet will be asked to agree the proposals at County Hall on January 25th.

## Bereaved Families Plant Snowdrops at Hardwick Park

The Child Bereavement Charity is once again inviting families to take part in their annual Snowdrop Walk at Hardwick Park, Sedgefield on Sunday 26th February. The grounds will be open from noon until 3pm with an opportunity for families to plant snowdrops in memory of someone special who has died. Snowdrops will be available for purchase on the day and charity volunteers will be on hand to help with the planting in the picturesque grounds of Hardwick Park. A Book of Remembrance donated by a bereaved family will be in a quiet corner for your individual entries.

Arts & Crafts activities will be taking place in the visitor centre for children to join in with. Refreshments will be available to buy from the Visitor Centre Café. Chief Executive of the Child Bereavement Charity, Ann Chalmers, said "We are very grateful to Julie and David Kilpatrick for their huge commitment to this important event for bereaved families and for their continued generous support of the Snowdrop Walk.

This is a special day in the Child Bereavement Charity's calendar and the funds raised will go towards our vital work supporting grieving families when a child dies or is bereaved. We hope

many people will come along to join us on the day." Entrance is free; however donations gratefully received. For information email events@childbereavement.org.uk or call 01494 568912

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Email: [aycliffedanceacademy@gmail.com](mailto:aycliffedanceacademy@gmail.com)

[www.aycliffedance.co.uk](http://www.aycliffedance.co.uk)



Right Night Vision

OUR M.P.'s SPEECH TO THE COMMONS ON TOWN CENTRE

Road safety charity the IAM is offering weekly motoring tips from Britain's top advanced driver, Peter Rodger. This week, he is advising on driving in the dark.

- To improve your view as far as possible, keep your lights and windscreen clean.
- Use main beam, but when other drivers are approaching make sure you dip your lights to avoid dazzling the oncoming traffic.
- Make sure you can stop safely within the distance you can see to be clear.
- If you're feeling tired, caffeine alone is not a fix. Take a break and have a 20 minute nap.
- If an approaching car forgets to dip its lights, look beyond the lights, but to their left to avoid being dazzled as much.
- Look at how the traffic

ahead behaves for clues to possible problems you can't see yet.

• If it's gloomy in the morning, don't forget to put your lights on.

IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger said: "The risk of fatal accidents increases in the dark as visibility is reduced.1 Have regular eye examinations to ensure you are wearing glasses or contact lenses if you need to."

To help drivers stay safe this winter, the IAM has launched a new website, [drivingadvice.org.uk](http://drivingadvice.org.uk), with traffic updates, weather forecasts and tips on how to drive safely in winter.

Tips cover rain, snow, ice, fog and wind – everything you can expect in a typically unpredictable British winter. Check it out before you travel.

"I congratulate the Hon. Member for Nuneaton on securing this debate. The future of the town centre and the high street is a subject that probably affects every constituency in the country. I shall take this opportunity to describe my experience of town centre development, because ever since I became a Member at the 2007 Sedgefield by-election, the future of Newton Aycliffe town centre has been an ongoing issue. In fact, my first Adjournment debate was about the town centre and the problems it was facing. Newton Aycliffe was one of the first new towns established under the New Towns Act 1946, and work on it started on June 28 1948. William Beveridge was the first chair of the Newton Aycliffe development corporation, the first row of shops in the town was built in 1952 on Neville Parade, and construction of the town centre itself began in 1957.

In those early years the town centre was seen as a bustling environment with thriving shops, and everybody of a particular age in Newton Aycliffe has fond memories of it, but then, in the 1960s, things began to stall. The planners could not make up their minds about the future direction of the town and its predicted population, and as a result hesitation stepped in. There were plans for a new town centre, which were eventually

rejected.

In 1963 Lord Hailsham's report on the future of the north-east predicted an increase in the town's population, but because of hesitation and a poor decision-making process, it took 12 years from the Hailsham report and the consent of a Secretary of State before a few shops were built. In 1974 a leisure centre was built. By the 1980s the town's biographer, Garry Philipson, said in his book "Aycliffe and Peterlee New Towns" that there was "indecision and consequent lengthy delay regarding the new towns' target population and, subsequently, the form of town centre redevelopment."

17 Jan 2012 : Column 652

The delays and setbacks have continued into this century, but I think that we have started to turn the corner over the past three years. About 10 years ago Tesco built a store about 500 yards from the town centre. Today that is taking £1 million a week out of the town, which has a population of about 28,000. People might comment on the superstore's hold on the town centre, but everyone still seems to use the shop. The town centre is still making progress. The old dilapidated health centre has been demolished, Wilkinson has opened a new store, and the row of shops in Dalton Way has been demolished. That will make room for a new Aldi supermarket, which will be

built and opened in the course of this year, adding welcome competition for Tesco. The leisure centre is to become the site of a community hub with a new library, newly configured health provision and a community space. The structural monstrosity known as "the ramp", which links the centre's two floors and the car park is to be dismantled, and a row of shops near the leisure centre is to be demolished, creating a thoroughfare. That will open up to the outside world a town centre that currently seems enclosed and uninviting to potential customers.

For the residents of Newton Aycliffe, the history of their town centre has been laced with a good dose of frustration. In the past few years I have experienced that frustration myself. To bring a halt to the delays and ensure that progress could be made, my predecessor arranged for the planners, developers and other stakeholders to sit down around the same table to thrash out their problems at the beginning of 2007. That was the first time that those people had sat down together in the same room to work out the problems. There have still been frustrations. For example, before planning could be agreed for the Aldi store, a stopping-

More Charity Work for Honest John

Honest John is running an extra fundraising stall each Thursday commencing 26th January (weather permitting) between 9.00am and 4.00pm in the Town Centre near the notice board.

John will be selling books, DVD's and CD's in aid of the town's Year 11 Award Scheme which selects students in various categories to receive valuable prizes presented on their Prom Night.

The scheme initiated by Newton Press is also sponsored by Tesco, Itec, Town Centre Management and the Rotary Club.

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Support for Great Aycliffe's Heritage



When Sally Symons heard the Town Council would not help the appeal to restore St. Andrew's Graveyard at Aycliffe Village she organised her own small fundraising scheme and raised £40.

She is now also involved in running a Race Night at the North Briton on 25th February at 7.30pm.

"I don't live in the village but believe the decision was mean particularly as the Church is quite ancient and something for which the town should be very proud" said Sally.

Revd. Julie Wing, shown here with Sally, said she was grateful for any help in the £5,000 appeal and hoped others would join the campaign to preserve Great Aycliffe's heritage.

The Race Night tickets are only £2.50p each and are available at the North Briton or by ringing 320278 or 01325 788893.

Place your VALENTINES DAY Greetings in your local community newspaper the "NEWTON NEWS"

JOHN JANE

To "squidgy widgey" on Valentines Day love from your little bunny X

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JOHN DOUGH To my "squidgy widgey" on Valentines Day, love from your little bunny X

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Above example: 15p per word

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JANE DOUGH To my honey bunny, all my love on Valentines Day, love from "squidgy widgey"

Above example: 25p per word

Deadline: 5pm Wednesday, 8th February  
Published: Friday 10th February 2012


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# STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF JUDO



Sugar Hill Primary school children received a visit last week from Glynn Fidgeon of Destination Judo. Having covered the hall floor with safety mats, he gave each of the children a Judo jacket and provided an interesting taster session in the art of Judo.

The classes were taught how to warm up correctly, before being shown some basic Judo moves. Mr Jones, year 4 teacher at Sugar Hill, said; "All of the children had a great time watching and participating in what for many of them was a completely new activity."

## Harvest Christian Centre



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## Is Golf Course Plan Considered an "Exceptional" Case?

Dear Sir,

My objection to this proposed development has up till now been based on its failure to comply with current planning rules and it has always been my understanding that any objection must be on planning grounds. I have however always known that these rules can be overruled in exceptional circumstances.

In the Localism Act the opportunity to do this is being severely curtailed and once the local plan is accepted then it cannot be easily overturned. These are the words of Greg Clark the planning minister, but this is exactly what Mr Murphy is proposing. There is now no doubt that the County Council agree this application does not comply with the current planning rules and the discussions now going on with the developer for almost a year are to explore the developers proposals for them to be treated as an exceptional case.

As yet nothing is agreed and ultimately it will be the decision of councillors on the planning committee who make the final decision. This raises the question should councillors, maybe only one, be allowed to change the rules that have been agreed by the people in the area after they have spent months and maybe years, as we are doing now, in formulating the Local Plan?

Greg Clark's suggestion is not new it has always been so, he is only reinforcing it. He has not introduced any sanctions that I am aware of, against authorities, who ignore the planning rules.

It will be interesting to find out what criteria the council use to decide "exceptional" and if these apply to all future applications. If this application is approved, it appears to me that developers in future will be able to buy planning permission whatever the Local Plan says. Changes such as this used to have to be approved by the regional authority, but this has been abolished by this government.

There is one other issue which has to be addressed and that is the amount the developer must pay to the council for the provision of affordable houses etc. Developers are required to include twenty percent of the houses as affordable,

which in this case would be ten houses. However developers are allowed to get out of this requirement by offering the council a sum of money. The question is how much money. There is no prescribed amount and each council has a different system to decide what this should be. Up to now I have no idea how DCC is going to decide on this issue. Mr Murphy has offered £350,000. The council is not obliged to accept Mr Murphy's offer, it is by agreement. Mr Murphy has however introduced a snag, what he has done is to make his offer a package. This means it is accepted as a whole or it fails.

If for example councillors do not accept his offer of £350,000 then they have to reject the whole application even if they agree with the planning considerations. Since we are currently very close to agreeing a new Local Plan, now called a Local Development Framework, when the people of Aycliffe will have the opportunity to have their say on every aspect of planning in Aycliffe, may I appeal to the councillors on the planning committee who will have to decide on this

application, to reject it.

If after the new plan is agreed the people of Aycliffe approve of housing on this site Mr Murphy can always reapply. At least we will then have the will of the residents deciding the issue which is precisely what the Localism Act is all about.  
Keith Henderson  
Great Aycliffe  
Town Councillor

## PROTECT AYCLIFFE'S COUNTRYSIDE

Dear Sir,

Two weeks ago Newton News published an excellent letter from the famous author Bill Bryson in his capacity as President of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Mr Bryson was urging people to "stand up for the countryside". In his letter he stated that he believed that planning regulations had helped to facilitate economic growth whilst also protecting and enhancing our greatest national treasure - the countryside.

Proposed new planning rules may however put our countryside at risk and the planning application for a building development on Woodham golf course seems to me to be just one of those situations that Mr Bryson was concerned about and so should everyone be.

We should be looking to allow sustainable development in our area and proposals such as those put forward by Washington Developments are quite simply not sustainable and

would ruin a large area that is of considerable natural beauty and full of diverse wildlife.

So Mr Wilson, I urge you to look very closely at the proposed changes to our planning laws and vote against any measures in the Bill that make it easier for companies such as Washington Developments to desecrate the countryside around our town.

If you agree at all with Bill Bryson then building here cannot be allowed to happen. There are numerous less intrusive sites upon which a hotel and 50 houses could be built without encroachment into the countryside at the edge of Newton Aycliffe.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England urges us all to "write to our MPs to let them know they want the system to protect their local countryside, not just designated areas" (such as National Parks, green belt etc).

I do hope that some of your readers have done just that.  
Bob Taylor



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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2012

#### Friday 3rd February - Check out Chico Ladies Night

Back by popular demand performing all his usual cheeky hits and more. Evening includes two course dinner and disco, party games and prizes. Arrive for 7.00pm for dinner served 7.30pm - £19.95 per person

#### 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

#### Saturday 4th February - Night Fever at the 70's Disco

Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £10.95 per person

#### Friday 10th February - The Jam and Paul Weller Tribute

The New Age Jam - An awesome sound created by the boys with some cracking covers of the band and Paul Weller Classics. Evening includes Pie and a Pint. Arrive 7.00pm, Buffet 7.30pm - £11.95 per person

#### Friday 10th February - The 80's Experience

The best disco party ever. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £10.95 per person

Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite accompanied by music from our resident pianist. 4 courses including coffee £18.95 per person

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## Sport for Disabled Children

New to the Centre and new for the town is a Sports Club for Children with any form of disability commencing Tuesday 21st February from 5-30pm to 7-30pm.

This first week will be used as both a register and a chance for all to see what our partners, Anderson Sports Development can and will provide.

For any queries ring in the first instance to Ron on 01325-321504 [office] Birthday Parties for Children at the Agnew, bookings now available at £24 for 3 hours which includes the Hall, Meeting Room & Kitchen so not to miss out ring Ron on 01325-321504 [office] or home 01325-301033



# TIME TO SHED LIGHT ON CLOCK CHANGE

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is urging MPs to back a Bill that would lead to a better understanding of the benefits of lighter evenings in the UK.

The Daylight Saving Bill passed its second reading in December 2010 with a huge majority. This feat means the push for lighter evenings is closer to succeeding now than at any time since 1970.

But with its third reading scheduled to take place in the House of Commons on Friday, January 20, the campaign needs more MPs to turn out and vote "Aye".

The Government has already said that it is "minded" to back Rebecca Harris MP's Private Members' Bill - while every recent opinion poll shows the idea has UK-wide appeal.

The Bill is simply calling for a cross-departmental audit of the benefits of Single/Double Summer Time (GMT+1 in winter / GMT+2 in summer). If the evidence proves compelling - and is accepted by all UK governments - then it could trigger a trial.

RoSPA has been campaigning on this issue for decades. All the evidence suggests that lighter evenings would make the UK's road users significantly safer. Figures cited by the Department for Transport show that by providing an extra hour of

evening daylight all year round, about 80 deaths and at least 200 serious injuries would be prevented on our roads each year.

As well as better aligning daylight with waking hours, independent studies show that a move to SDST would:

- Cut CO2 emissions by 447,000 tonnes a year by reducing the need for electric lighting in the evenings
- Provide a £3.5bn boost to British leisure and tourism, creating up to 80,000 new jobs in the sector
- Reduce levels of obesity by allowing for more outdoor sport in the evenings
- Relieve the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder and similar conditions
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime (especially among the elderly).

The world has changed a great deal since the last trial concluded successfully in 1971, so it's imperative that we're given a chance to consider the impact lighter evenings would have on 21st century Britain.

With so much at stake, it is only right that the public is given the evidence it needs to make the kind of decisions that could save lives, create jobs and help protect the environment.

For more information, and to register support for RoSPA's campaign, visit [www.rospace.com/lighterevenings/](http://www.rospace.com/lighterevenings/)

# St. Elizabeth's Church Events

The **Soup-a-Lunch** will be held on Wednesday 1st February from 12.45pm. Cost £3.00. Please ring Angela on 319067 if you wish to come.

**Movie Dome** are showing "Carousel" on Tuesday 14th February from 2pm. Cost £2.00, (this includes a cup of tea). Please ring Brian on 319067 if you wish to attend.

**Pancake Night** with a game of "Heads and Tails" on Tuesday 21st February at 7pm. Cost £3.00. Please ring Eunice on 317035 for a ticket. All of these events are held in St. Elizabeth's Church Hall, Woodham.



Shafto Way and St. Mary's Ward PACT Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th January 2012 from 6.00pm at St. Mary's Church, Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe. All residents from the area are welcome.

**PCSO 7044**  
**Scott Hodgson**  
N/A Beat Team

# FUTURE OF LIBRARIES GUARANTEED

Libraries across County Durham will remain open despite reductions in Government funding, under proposals being discussed by councillors next week.

The County Council, which needs to make savings of at least £145.8m over the five years between 2011 and 2016, is proposing measures that will guarantee no libraries will close.

However, with the total number of visits to libraries having dropped over the past three years and the number of active users falling by 4%, the council does need to respond to changing demand for library services.

Members of the authority's Cabinet will be asked to agree to a 12-week consultation on a number of changes, when they meet at County Hall on Wednesday, 25 January.

If given the go-ahead, the consultation would see library-users, staff and the general public asked for their views on proposals to retain

the existing 11 town centre and 28 community library buildings, reduce opening hours and review the mobile library service.

Cllr Maria Plews, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for leisure, libraries and lifelong learning, said: "We need to reduce spending on library services by £1.457m over the next four years while still providing a high quality service to residents."

"I am pleased that we have been able to put forward a strategy for the future of the service that enables all libraries to remain open but means we can make the required savings and address changing demand."

"We are confident that the changes we are proposing will enable us to offer a financially sustainable library network that is vibrant, modern and enjoyable to visit despite our reduced budget."

The proposals reflect feedback received during an

earlier consultation on library services in 2010 as well as the annual Public Library Service User survey for 2009/10 and a consultation last year on the council's savings proposals prior to budget setting.

Library opening times currently vary from 21 hours per week in many smaller venues to 55.5 at Clayport, in Durham, with all open at least two evenings per week and on a Saturday morning.

The proposals would see the opening hours for all town centre libraries, excluding Clayport, reduced to a core of 36 hours per week, with community libraries operating a core of 20 hours per week.

Specific opening times for individual libraries would be determined in discussion with local communities to reflect local need, although it is expected that all would be open on Saturday mornings and one evening per week.

Changes are also being proposed to the mobile library service, which has seen membership fall from 7,800 in March 2008 to

3,538 in March 2011. The number of active borrowers now accounts for only 1.5 per cent of the total for the library service, making the mobile service significantly more expensive per visit than library buildings.

There are currently five mobile library vehicles, which visit 182 different communities over a two-week period, stopping at 380 halts.

Under the new strategy, it is proposed that the mobile library service will only visit communities at least four miles from a library building, with only one halt in each settlement the library visits. Halts would be withdrawn if they are not used.

Despite the overall reduction in funding for the service, capital has also been set aside to carry out much needed improvements to some of library buildings.

The council will also continue to seek out opportunities to co-locate libraries with other services.

If given the go-ahead, the consultation would begin on Monday, 6 February.

# WOODHAM LEADS THE WAY WITH COMPUTER SCIENCE



Recently the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, announced replacing all ICT lessons with Computer Science labelling ICT as 'dull and boring'.

Many schools are now panicking at the prospect of having to tear up all of their ICT lessons, create new Computer Science ones for every single class and then fully train their staff in time for the September 2012 deadline.

Darren Smith, Head of ICT at Woodham Community Technology College, said of the move "I welcome the move towards Computer Science and have campaigned for this very thing for many years. As a result, students at Woodham are well ahead of the game and have been studying GCSE Computer Science as an option since September 2010. The course has been hugely popular with our students."

Woodham CTC was part of a trail blazing national pilot for Computer Science, which influenced Michael Gove's decision. As part of the government changes school children will be required to program and problem solve to create software rather than just learning how to use applications such as PowerPoint.

When asked about the students who were not taking the GCSE Computer Science course Mr Smith said, "Our ICT curriculum does not look like that of other schools which have been criticised. Our students already program, problem solve, create computer

games, animate, edit sound and produce computer graphics so the change will be fluid".

And what does the future hold for Computer Science students at Woodham CTC? "They will learn how to create mobile phone and Facebook apps. The Raspberry Pi initiative to create a computer the size of a credit card for around £20 is fascinating. At least a quarter of my Computing students have indicated they are likely to purchase one to program at home when production starts at the end of the month. We are definitely at the start of a golden age in British computing."

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## A Game Too Far

**Prudhoe & Stocksfield 30 Newton Aycliffe 10**

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club lost their crucial Durham and Northumberland Division 3 match against promotion rivals Prudhoe and Stocksfield on a cold afternoon by the River Tyne.

After a heavy freeze, there were doubts about the playability of the pitch, but in the event the underfoot conditions were good. Despite not having a full strength side, Aycliffe were still able to field a pretty strong 15.

Playing downhill, the initial play belonged to Aycliffe as the forwards maintained possession and Prudhoe conceded penalties for a number of ruck infringements. Stephen Middlemas was marginally short with two long range penalty attempts but, against the run of play it was Prudhoe who took the lead, breaking out of defence and scoring in the corner in their first attack of the game.

This seemed to disrupt Aycliffe who then lost all their shape for the rest of the half, a second try giving the home side a 10 - 0 lead. The second half did not see any improvement in Aycliffe's play and Prudhoe added a third, converted, try and a penalty goal for a 20-point lead. Now

Aycliffe shook off their malaise and began to play well, good possession saw James Thacker given enough space to force his way through the defence for a try. Aycliffe began to push for another try when, in quick succession 3 Prudhoe players and one from Aycliffe were sin-binned.

The two man advantage should have seen Aycliffe power back into the game, but it was Prudhoe who dug deep and added a penalty and a converted try to take the game out of Aycliffe's reach. Aycliffe added a second try when Chris Richards set up Thacker for his second and they were pushing hard for another score as the game ended, but it was too little too late.

This was a disappointing match for Aycliffe, who showed at times that they were good enough to win, but lacked the consistency against the best team faced this season. On 21st January, Aycliffe host Yorkshire side Baildon in the National Junior Vase; kick-off 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](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/newtonaycliffe).

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## GREENFIELD ARTS CENTRE NEWS

We have had a successful enrolment week for many of our courses and by now, many of you will no doubt be feeling the benefit of our fitness classes, as well as trying something new in one of our courses.

We do however have many courses that are still available such as Fresh Flower Arranging; this course is very much on-going and is open to new and returning people alike; it is running on a Friday 1.30-3.30pm, for 10 weeks at £33.

We also have spaces on many of our adult courses: Fused Glass - running Mondays (5.30-7pm) for 5 weeks at £41; Painting & Drawing, running on a Wednesday (6-7.30pm) for 10 weeks at £33. There are spaces on our Singing course (Wednesdays 7.30-8.30pm) and Make & Munch cookery course (Thursdays 6.30-8.30), as well as Spanish for both beginners and the intermediates among you! So why not pop in to enrol and find out about our other on-going classes too?

We're open Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm and Fridays 10-4; we'd love to see you! Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe. 01325 379048; [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk)

**Weaving and Felt Making in the Greenfield Gallery!**

Over the next few weeks year 7 students at Greenfield Community College will be working on two projects in the Greenfield Gallery, using

the current exhibition "Tea for Two" by Karen Syms as inspiration.

A year 7 technology group, led by teacher Janet Ward, have been looking at the gallery, and learning new sewing machine and felt making skills, which they will put to use over the next three weeks creating their own felt pieces, then assembling them into vases, boxes and other three-dimensional shapes.

They started this week with a lesson spent exploring the gallery and drawing their favourite pieces, next week they get messy making felt! Their felt creations, once complete, will be on display in the Craft Cabinets in Greenfield Community & Arts Centre from Wednesday 7th March to Wednesday 25th April. Along with felt making, more year 7 groups have been bitten by the textiles bug, exploring texture by creating small woven pieces, again using the fantastic current exhibition in the Greenfield Gallery as inspiration, led by Adele Leadbitter.

Don't forget, the gallery is open whenever the Arts Centre is open, so come and visit us! We also welcome group visits to the gallery, if you are involved in a group that would like to visit the gallery, and maybe get involved in some creative activity, get in touch!



## Clairvoyance

**DARLINGTON** Spiritualist Church and Awareness Centre, Denmark Street, Darlington. Invite you to a Mind, Body and Spirit Extravaganza on Saturday 4th February 2012 from 10.30am to 2.30pm, entrance £2.00. Private Readings, Ribbon Readings, Crystal Readings, Spiritual Healing, Spirit Assessments, Reflexology, Indian Head Massage, Reiki and much more. Followed at 3-4.30pm by a demonstration of Clairvoyance with a medley of mediums, £5. For more information ring Irene on 01325 316901 (evenings)

## Weddings

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## Lost &amp; Found

**FOUND:** Man's smoking pipe near the Cubby. please call in to claim.  
**LOST** in Newton Aycliffe, man's glasses, if found please ring 01325 310868

## Public Notice

**WATCH BATTERIES** now available at Taylors Newsforce  
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**RSPCA** Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311 215

**CLUE NUMBER 13**

**JACKIE BROWN**  
What starts with a T, ends with a T, and has a T in it?

## SLIMMING WORLD

**Every Thursday**  
St Clares Church  
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11am, 1pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm

**Contact Debbie**  
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## Jumble Sale

**St Mary's School Hall**  
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## Holiday

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# QUAKERS LIVE ANOTHER DAY!

Darlington FC lived to fight another day after a remarkable day of developments on Wednesday. Darlo's game at home to Fleetwood Town this weekend will go ahead after a frenzied day of dealings. As the club's administrators were about to liquidate the club, they announced a 13th hour reprieve after an offer from the Darlington Football Club Rescue Group (DFCRG) which committed the required funds to keep the club going until the end of January. It means Quakers will play their next three games in the Blue Square Bet Premier League – at home to Fleetwood on Saturday, at Hayes and Yeading next Tuesday night and against York City at the Northern Echo Arena next Saturday (January 28). Darlington were placed into administration by former chairman Raj Singh on January 3 and played what was thought

to be their last game at Barrow a fortnight ago. Since then, the Darlington Supporters Club have been bucket-collecting at other games, including Aycliffe's derby at home to Shildon last week, raising a total of about £10,000. That money, together with a substantial donation from the Darlington Supporters Trust and money generated by the DFCRG, has secured the club's short-term future at least, while the club's administrator, Harvey Madden, seeks to find a suitable buyer to guarantee the club's long-term future.

## Obituary

**GEORGE WALTER SIM** on 18th January 2012. Aged 83 years. Beloved Husband of Mary; Father to Alastair, Stewart, Christopher, Sheila and Shelley; Father-in-Law to Marion, Paula and Dave; A loved Grandad of Sean, Zaeley, Richard, James, Richard, Sarah, Emily, Mark, Paul and Christopher and Great Grandad of Elliot, Rubianna, Logan, Sienna-Rose and Louie. Funeral on Wednesday 25th January, 10.45am at Darlington Crematorium. Friends please meet at Crematorium.

## Births

### Ollie Mason Thompson



#### Thank You So Much

Toni for giving me a beautiful Son. So proud of you. Love you loads, Scott x

**TURNBULL-THOMPSON** Toni-Marie and Scott, congratulations on the safe arrival of your Son "Ollie Mason" on 13th January 2012. Toni, you were fantastic throughout labour and a tough delivery. It was a privilege to be there, thank you. Welcome to the family "Little Man", love from very proud (Turnbull) Grandparents, Great Nanna Viv, Uncle Bryce, Auntie's Abbi and Lillie xxxx **CONGRATULATIONS** to Andrew Bell and Helen on the birth of your new born little "Lilly" weighing 5lb 2oz. So proud to be a Granda. Love, Dad and Parichat xxxx **FAWCETT** Colin and Val are proud to announce the safe arrival of their fourth Grandchild "Lucas James", born on 14th January 2012. To their Son and Daughter-in-Law Stuart and Kim. Thank you both so much, he is gorgeous, just like his big Sister Amy! With love to you all, Mam and Dad xxx **LUCAS JAMES FAWCETT** Congratulations to my big Brother and Sister-in-Law Stu and Kim on the birth of baby Lucas. Love you all so much. All our love, Dawn, Declan and Noah

## Thank You

**MR DAVID PRESTON** would like to thank all the Newton Aycliffe and surrounding areas for helping with the Poppy Appeal, raising a fabulous amount of £13,114.54 **McCUE** The family of the late Doreen wishes to express their sincere gratitude to all family and friends for their kindness and support. Thank you to Father Campion and St Mary's Church for the beautiful Service and to all those who made donations. A special thank you to Dr Jose, Macmillan Cancer and Marie Curie Nurses for their kindness and care. Thank you to Co-operative Funeralcare for their support with funeral arrangements and to John and Doreen for all their help in making such a sad day so special.

**JEAN GREAVES** The family of the late Jean would like to thank the many people who attended her funeral. In particular, we want to thank the Reverend Linda Potter, who conducted the Service, and gave great comfort to us all. Thanks also to Bryan Shephered, Funeral Director, whose calm presence helped us through this most difficult day. Additionally, we would like to thank Drs Jose and Susannah; Nurses and admin staff from the Jubilee Practice, as well as staff from Cobblers Hall and Neville Parade Pharmacies. Too many others to name individually, but you know who you are. Your kindness and compassion meant such a lot to Jean. Instead of flowers, we asked for donations to Mam's favourite lifelong charity, the RNLI. To date we have collected over £800. In memory of Jean, there is to be a special fundraising night at the Lee Green Dance Centre on Saturday 18th February. All proceeds will be added to the money collected at her Funeral Service and sent to the RNLI. Family, friends and former dance pupils from Lee Green will be most welcome. More details later.

**THE FAMILY** of the late Margaret Bussey would like to thank family and friends for the kindness, love and support shown during our recent sad loss. We would also like to thank the following for their professional and sympathetic approach - Dr. Hewett and the staff at Bewick Crescent Surgery, Staff at Darlington Memorial Hospital, Father Campion, Staff at the British Legion and the Newton News. Thank you to all who donated to the collection for CAFOD raising around £1,400 which would have made Margaret very proud.

**FAHEY** Steph, Lee and Nikki would like to give a special thank you to our family and relatives, friends and neighbours for all their kindness, sympathy and support. Also for the many many cards and beautiful flowers we received when we lost Bernie. A heartfelt thanks for the overwhelming attendance at the Church Service and the charitable donations to the British Heart Foundation. A special thanks also to Revd Linda Potter for the lovely Service and kind words; the Paramedics dedication and hardwork and John Meynell Funeral Service for their comfort and care **BOB KETCH** of Wise Owl Driving School. A big thank you for all your help and support in getting me through my driving test (1st time). Strongly recommend, an excellent and very professional instructor. Many thanks, Lewis

## In Memoriam

**J.T.L.** 22nd January 2010. Sailaway Sailor. Enjoy the wind in your sails. Miss you loads. Duchess **JEAN BOYES** - 18th January 2011. Have you ever lost a Mother or even felt the pain, or even felt those bitter tears that fall like falling rain. If you've never had that feeling, we hope you never do, for when we lost our Mam, it broke our hearts in two. They say it's a beautiful journey, from the old world to the new, some day we'll make that journey which will lead us straight to you. And when we reach that garden, in which there is no pain, we'll put our arms around you Mam and never part again. Never more than a thought away. Love, Ken and Jackie

**JEAN BOYES** - You only have one Nanna, patient kind and true. No other friends in all the world, will be the same to you. As we look upon her picture, sweet memories we recall of a Nanna full of sunshine and a smile for one and all. Love always, Darren and Donna xx

**JEAN BOYES** - We lost a Gran, but Heaven gained an angel. In our hearts you will always remain. Lots of love, Dean, Liam and Jai xxx

**JEAN BOYES** 18-1-11. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Love you Mam Always. Pauline and Tommy x **JEAN BOYES** Every day in some small way, memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near, still missed, loved, always dear. Miss you lovely Nan and love you always. Gemma and Dan xx

**JEAN BOYES** Gentle Jesus up above, give my Gran Jean a great big hug. Love you, Caitlyn xx

**JEAN BOYES** 18-1-11. Remembering you today Mam. Love you always. Allan, Debbie and Danielle **JENNY WILLIAMSON** Died 21st January 2000. Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on. Cherished memories never fade because one loved is gone. Those we love can never be more than a thought apart. For as long as there is a memory they live on in our heart. Des, Val and Trevor

**JEAN PARKER** 11th January 2009. Special memories Mam forever in our thoughts. Daughter Karen and Jim, Grandchildren Jason and Lee **KEV DINSLEY** 17-1-1992. 20 years ago we said goodbye, but there's never a day that we don't think of you Dad. Forever missed. Teresa, Kevin, Michelle, Louise, Mark, Ian, Grandbairns Thomas, Teresa, Ellie-Louise and Great Grandbairns

## Birthday Remembrance

**GEORGE SMITH** 24-1-1932. Birthday memories of George on your 80th. Birthdays in Heaven are a wonderful thing, everyone's invited and all the angels sing. So we send you birthday wishes wrapped in lots of love. We are sending them to Heaven on the wings of a snow white dove. Loved and remembered by Madge, Sue, Roly, Christopher, Fiona xx. Lots of hugs and kisses from your two Great Grandchildren, Charlie and George xxx

Advertise in this section from 15p per word - Tel 300212

## Congratulations

### Michael Todd



#### Happy 18th Birthday

24th January 1994  
Love you loads. Mam, Dad and all the family xxxx

### Charlotte Arrowsmith



#### Happy 18th Birthday

Charlie we are all so very proud of you. Have a brilliant birthday. We all love you very much. From all your family xxxx

### Holly



#### Happy 18th Birthday

Congratulations on your 18th birthday, with all our love and best wishes for the future. Mam, Doug, Connor and Rafferty xxx

### Christine Carlton

## 50

**Happy birthday** Christine. Hope you have a wonderful weekend. All my love, Peter xxx

**Wishing** you a fabulous 50th birthday. Love you loads, Claire xxx

**Happy** 50th birthday Grandma. With lots of love, hugs and kisses from Jamie xxx

**Happy** 50th birthday Mum. Hope you have a brilliant time. Sorry we can't be there. Miss you loads. Lots of love, Shaun and Sofya xxx

**Happy** 50th birthday Christine. With love and best wishes from Mike, Linda, Ashley, Paul, Lindsay and Chris xxxx

### Anne Woodward



#### Happy Birthday

**Mam and Grandma**  
Lots of love from Joanne, Jordan and Brandon

#### Happy Bus Pass

Have a super day. Lots of love, John

### Veronica Norris Aka Vonnice



**Who'd have thought it 65!**  
Looking fab, happy birthday. Love from "The Girls"

### Danielle



#### Happy 18th Birthday

Have a lovely day. We hope the years ahead are as wonderful as you are. Love you loads, Dad, Bev, Ryan and Ashleigh xxxx

### Danielle Mercer



#### Happy 18th Birthday

22nd January 1994

You have grown into a beautiful young woman and we are very proud of you . . . but you will always be our baby Girl. Love from Mum and Ian xxx

#### Happy Birthday

Wishing our beautiful Granddaughter Danielle a very happy 18th birthday. Love from Nan, Grandad and Uncle Tony xx

#### Happy 18th Birthday

Danielle. Love, Auntie Amanda, Uncle John and Mackenzie xxx

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## HELP POLICE RETURN YOUR STOLEN BIKE

People who own off-road bikes are being asked to make them identifiable in case they get stolen.

As there is no statutory obligation to register ownership of off-road bikes, they will not appear on the Police National Computer. This means that if a bike is stolen then recovered, police can have difficulty reuniting it with its owner. But the DVLA, which operates the Off Road Register, will

register the engine and frame number with owner details onto the Police National Computer. The service is free but does require proof of ownership to register.

"It's also a good idea for people to take a photo of their machine and make a note of any distinguishing features, and mark the machine with their home post code in a place hidden from everyday sight," says Andy Davies, Specialist Operations Unit.

"It's bad enough having property stolen in the first place, but when we recover items and can't find the rightful owners it's very frustrating."

Check out the following websites for more details: [http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dg/groups/dg\\_digitalassets/@dg/@en/@motor/documents/digitalasset/dg\\_067209.pdf](http://www.direct.gov.uk/prod_consum_dg/groups/dg_digitalassets/@dg/@en/@motor/documents/digitalasset/dg_067209.pdf) [www.direct.gov.uk/dvlocal](http://www.direct.gov.uk/dvlocal)

## CREAM OF THE COUNTY

Athletes from the Durham region competed last week to qualify to represent the area in the forthcoming Inter County Schools Cross Country Race. Training with Shildon AC has given many young athletes the edge and the region some of the finest runners around.

Kicking off the qualifying attempts was Newtonian Henry Johnson and as he attends Teesside High School, he ran at Lawrence Jackson School. He qualified to run for Stockton, after he won his Districts by nearly 4mins. Henry put his training to good use and romped around the course to win his Cleveland County colours taking victory in the Junior Boys event.

Durham Schools competed at Meadowfield on 14th January, where the freezing conditions made the ground hard. Top mention goes to Lizzie Cramb who took part in her first ever county competition. She took the title of Year 7 champ and hopes it will be the first of many to come.

The junior girl's event looked like a one horse race until the final leg of the course, when Rosie Findlay sliced her way through the competition to move up from 5th position to take 2nd place over the last few metres. Also in that race Hannah Waite took 10th position and qualified to the next stage.

Jake Findlay and Joseph Bell both qualified for the Inter County Schools at Kirby Stephen at the beginning of February. Jake looked very strong and continued to overtake others until he crossed the line in 9th place. Bell seemed to have qualification fixed in his mind finishing in 15th place. Amy Etherington had tough competition over the 3.78k course, but she put her training and skill into practice to gain an excellent 2nd place. The senior girl's field of runners was a little smaller, but still drew the best runners on the day.



True to form Zoe Hewitson, Senior girl, ran tactically well to take 2nd place across the 4.2K course.

Tackling the hills twice was rather a challenge for many, but Lizzie Wood battled on in the senior girls, and got an excellent result with 5th place. Michael Bleasby ran full of cold and was surprised to gain 7th place on the day. The 6.98K course was the longest route of the day and the 3 lap race was a challenge for many athletes. It was also good to see Lucy Waite, Nieve Raw and Matthew Coulthard compete, and although they did not qualify it was excellent to see so many Shildon athletes try out at county level.

Over the same weekend Georgia Hirst took part in the Northern indoor Track and

Field at Sheffield. She gained an excellent pb and came 6th in the 800m with 2.24.75. This was an excellent result for Georgia given the time for training available over the past few weeks.

Shildon Running & Athletic Club is open to anyone from the age of 8 upwards. If anyone is interested in joining the club please come along for a free try-out session. Please check out our website, [www.shildonrunning.co.uk](http://www.shildonrunning.co.uk) for nights & times to suit your age group. If you require any more information please call us on our new number 07592611600 or e-mail; [secretary@shildonrunning.co.uk](mailto:secretary@shildonrunning.co.uk)

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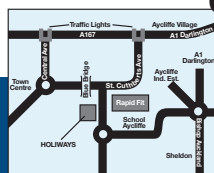
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