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ALDI - NEW BEGINNING FOR TOWN CENTRE



MP Phil Wilson says it's great to finally see the long-awaited Aldi store take shape. The £1.5m shop, will bring between 14 and 18 new jobs and include more than 50 new car parking spaces, ready for Christmas this year.

It will form a new "gateway" to the town centre as the first part of a three-phase overall redevelopment costing £3m, to be completed in 2015. Aldi was delayed due to a stand-off between utility companies over the

ownership of underground pipes, but building is now well underway.

Mr. Wilson said: "It's going to be a great asset for the town, with competition for Tesco. It is a new beginning for the town centre, and people have waited so long. I've been working on this since I was elected in 2007, with the developers and the council, to bring it to fruition, and it's starting to do that now, so it's great news."

"I can understand the scepticism, because there's been so many false dawns with the town centre, and I've been as frustrated as anyone else. The town centre has been a long haul, and there's still a long way to go, but it's starting to come together."

The Hitachi factory will start going up in the New Year, and that's going to bring a lot of skilled jobs and money to the town, which is why developments like this are very important."

Town Centre manager Bryan Haldane added: "The building itself will be finished by September. Aldi will then shop-fit the unit which should be finished by mid-to-end-November, and hopefully open for trade from December onwards."

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Local Nurse Helps Street Children in Ghana



Jayne Simpson lives locally and works for the NHS Community Nursing Team in Newton Aycliffe and Shildon. She would like to take her knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to the Asidaahey International School and Orphanage in the Dangme East District of Ghana which cares for abandoned children living in the streets. At Asidaahey the children receive food and shelter and have an opportunity to gain an education, paving the way for their future. Jayne is holding a Charity

Evening on October 6th at the Belvedere Club in Bishop Auckland. Local bands 'Costa Del Soul' and 'Settin Stone' will be playing, and there will be a raffle and a pie and peas supper (donated by a local butcher) and a disco. Tickets will be £8.00 each. She is asking local people and businesses to assist in any way possible, a raffle prize, voucher or monies to raise as much as possible for this cause and to make a difference to the lives of these children. Please contact numbers

below to donate and buy tickets.

Mrs M Robinson:

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Jayne Simpson:

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Woodham Summer School



It may be the summer holidays, but students are still attending Woodham and enjoying the facilities and excellent opportunities on offer.

A selection of Year 6 students who are due to start Woodham in September 2012 are attending Summer School and participating in a selection of activities ranging from making monster cushions in Design Technology, to capturing memories through scrapbooking and benefitting from expert PE coaching from Mr Jon Tait, Woodham Warriors Head Coach.

The Summer School is part of Woodham's highly successful transition programme which makes the move from primary school to secondary school as easy as possible. Woodham's Head of Year 7 and Primary Transition, Tracy Tait, together with a team of specially trained Year 7 tutors make sure that the youngest children in the school are given the care they need to settle quickly and to make new friends.



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THE TURBINIA

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Saturday 4th August - "FACELIFT"

"Not a bad night, crowd wise, a lot of regulars missing, but a few new faces which is always good to see. Band cracked off with T'Rex, '20th Century Boy', followed by a bit of Bad Company. Fratellis had them all boppin' in their seats. Paranoid next followed by a rocked up version of 'Spin Me Right Round', and Gilly missed it, they played PRIEST, Free and Therapy were followed by 'Billie Jean', Green Day and Motorhead finished a crackin first set.

Second half kicked off with 'Saturday Nights Alright For Fighting' belting out, 'Whiskey In The Jar', followed then Cult, Purple, more Lizzy - did an excellent drum solo on a bass guitar, new one on me, by now the dance floor was chocka. For encores we were treated to Led Zepellin, Sex Pistols and Metallica. Great band, great mix of music . . . classics to get them singing and dancing and a few unusual tracks they did in their own impressive style. They will be returning" GIG-PIT review of a previous gig at THE TURBINIA

Saturday 11th August - "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 NE/DC are (probably obviously) an AC/DC tribute band who cover the Bon Scott era tracks, and are made of the remnants of Whey Aye CDC plus a couple of newbies to the fold.

They played a straight set for nearly two hours and as usual Graeme got right into his 'Angus' role and just never seemed to let up, an absolutely blistering guitar performance with all the moves of Angus off to a tee. The crowd were really getting into it by the third track! Lead singer Patrick, vocally I don't think I have ever heard better. I usually refer to him as 'more Bon than Bon' but don't just take my word for it, go and see for yourself, I think you will be amazed. Despite not looking like Bon however, Patrick is a great frontman, gets the crowd going and keeps up with the Duracell bunny antics of Graeme superbly well.

The drummer Neil knows AC/DC 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 NE/DC 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 . . . another - "outstanding again. It was just like watching the AC/DC "Rock goes to college 1977" DVD . . . loved it."

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

Saturday 18th August - "INSANITY"

"Two great sets with something a little different - early Sabbath, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Foo Fighters and a brilliant version of Queens Of The Stone Age 'No One Knows', were amongst the stuff Insanity serve up. Not all my cup of char, but thoroughly enjoyable.

Band were nice and tight with Graeme his usual rocking self at the back, ably assisted in the rhythm section by Hirdy playing great bass and jumping around like only he does.

Brian on vocals has a perfect voice for the material and headbangs and poses like a proper frontman. I was most impressed with John "I only play rhythm really" . . . yeah, right!!! Trigg on guitar. Great clean but dirty tone playing in a variety of tunings and some real tasty phrasing and playing. Definitely a less is more style, but some lush soloing that was even more impressive considering the lack of saturation, each note ringing out nicely. Excellent stuff!"

GIG PIT REVIEW - www.insanity-rock.com

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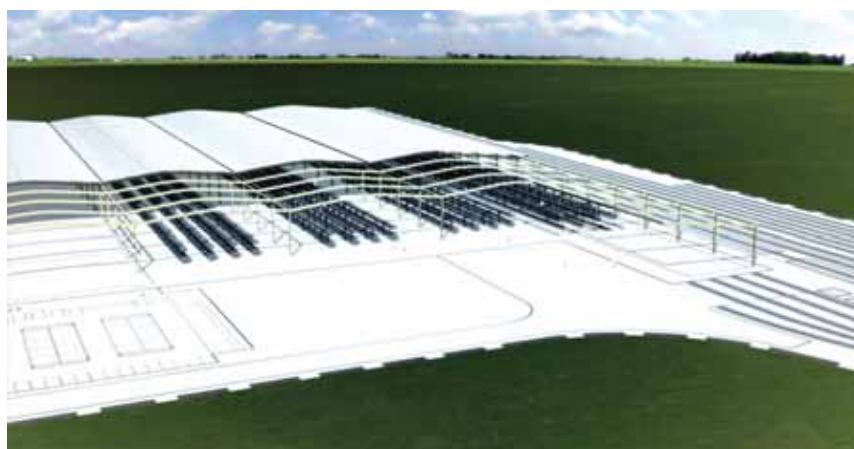
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NEWTON AYCLIFFE ON THE WAY UP



The news that Hitachi is to bring their European train building factory to Newton Aycliffe is brilliant for the town. 730 working in the

factory and 200 construction jobs will bring a welcome boost to employment in the area. And these are not minimum wage jobs.

They are high value, skilled jobs which will be well paid, bringing extra spending power to the town and surrounding area. One of reasons why Hitachi is coming to Aycliffe is because the town has a skilled worked force. And to add to the skills apprenticeships will be offered to our young people. There will be many more thousands of jobs in the supply chain. The Hitachi plant will only cover a third of the site up for development, leaving plenty of room for suppliers and other companies to move onto the designated land.



The news Hitachi is to build its research and development facility at Aycliffe also shows the company's long-term commitment to the area. Hitachi Rail Europe will use the site as its base to export trains to Europe, I understand the company has been shortlisted for one European contract already and has also been shortlisted for providing the rolling stock for the Crossrail infrastructure project in London. It is early days, but the Hitachi development could be to County Durham and the Tees Valley what Nissan is for the North of the region.

Work on the site will start almost immediately, but the construction of the site will start in the New Year. Trains will start rolling out of the factory in 2015. 600 carriages will be manufactured for use on the Great Western line between London and South Wales from 2017 and the East Coast mainline from 2018. The new trains will leave the factory and join the railway along the original route used by George Stephenson Locomotion No. 1 187 years ago. A piece of history not lost on the Japanese. Train building has come full circle. We have many excellent

companies on the industrial estate. We can add Hitachi to their names. We need to take great pride in ourselves and what we have achieved as a town and a region. Hitachi would not have been agreed by the

Government if it wasn't for the campaign we launched here two years ago. We can achieve great things if we all stand together. In my view Newton Aycliffe is on the way up. Phil Wilson M.P.

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Support for Scouts in the Community



"Children are our future", is a statement with a lot of truth. Their education and development is undertaken by parents, guardians, teachers and leaders from various organisations within their communities. As they develop, it is hoped that they will become an integral part of that community and be able to foster respect for what makes that community, families, business and the environment. One of the most respected

and active organisations are The Scouting movement, which has made many changes to attract and retain membership from those early years in childhood to teenagers and adults. Only seven years ago a Scout Group was formed at Aycliffe Village, meeting at The Old School, now the Village Hall on Monday and Thursday evenings to cater for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Within those short years their membership has grown to such an extent that they



have waiting lists to join. Angela Raw and Margaret Lenehan both expressed a desire for anyone who would like to help in the running of the scouting movement in Aycliffe Village to contact them.

This growth has been due to a lot of work in the community and fund raising events to furnish the movement with equipment, materials and transport. As this is a special year due to the Queens Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympic Games Acl have designed their own neckerchief with symbols to commemorate these events. Another group that shares similar values in working with and supporting communities is Freemasonry. Being aware of the rapid growth and the contribution those Scouts have made in their community, they have donated £400 towards additional materials for the group. The presentation was made by Joe Bulmer and William Swift to Wendy Etheridge (Akela). Wendy introduced her guests as "These gentlemen are Freemasons who have their own hand shake as we do,

signs as we do and help those less fortunate as we do". Those few words adequately summed up the similarities of the two organisations and who knows what these young scouts will do in their own future lives.

If you would like any further information or can assist this group in anyway please call Margaret Lenehan on 07809 708709 or Wendy on 07850 000969.

Train Deal Can Transform County says M.E.P.



Welcoming the Government's signing of the contract with Hitachi to bring train building back to Co Durham, local MEP Fiona Hall, who lobbied Transport Ministers to green-light the project, said: "This is an important day for the whole region. It means thousands of sustainable, skilled jobs throughout the North East at a time when many are struggling to find work. "As Nissan has helped reshape Wearside's economy, so Hitachi can transform Co Durham. We need to build our way out of this recession and this deal proves big companies and the Government have the confidence in our region to help us do just that."

Thank You

BonMarche would like to thank all customers who helped raise over £200 for Macmillan Cancer support during their three day charity event.

Hitachi Will Benefit from Choosing Aycliffe



Responding to news that the Department for Transport (DfT) has signed the deal with Hitachi Rail Europe which will bring a high tech rail assembly plant to Newton Aycliffe the Leader of Durham County Council, Cllr Simon Henig, said: "This is a hugely significant moment for County Durham. Rail manufacturing is coming home, returning to where it all began and to the people who played such a key role in its history. It gives me great pleasure to know that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of our younger residents in particular now have fresh hope for careers in manufacturing and engineering for the foreseeable future. I have no doubt at all that Hitachi will have much to benefit from choosing Newton Aycliffe for its base. As a council it is our pledge to do everything possible to continue to attract, retain and support business and job creation in County Durham. Hitachi has played an important role in ensuring the world is looking at our county and we will make the most of this fantastic opportunity." Working with partners including Sedgefield

MP Phil Wilson and site owners Merchant Place Developments, the council played a significant role in bringing Hitachi to Newton Aycliffe. The authority's Leader, Cllr Simon Henig, formed part of the influential group which successfully lobbied the DfT to progress the production of the next generation of passenger trains with Hitachi Rail Europe. Since then Business Durham, has supported and organised an event hosted by the Xcel Centre attended by more than 1,500 people interested in being part of the fit out and supply chain linked to the Hitachi development.

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Acess Points

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Taxi Service for Wheelchair Users



Able/Novak Taxis in the town are offering a service to disabled people with the introduction of a specially adapted vehicle to take passengers in a wheelchair to their destination. Their wheelchair accessible taxi service is available to all areas and any distance. The drivers are Council trained, experienced and reliable. For more details, quotations or to order your taxi ring



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of our ladies day. Demonstration of the perfect preparation for a healthy "bronzed" make-up base. "Silver" – the perfect accessories to adorn your outfits in matt or sparkling silver settings. And our finale of "Gold" brings our own local Gold Torch Bearers who will tell their own individual accounts of what carrying the "Olympic Torch" has meant to them. Tickets are £20.00 per person and are fully inclusive of a late morning cuppa upon arrival, as well as a sumptuous lunch. There will be an opportunity to purchase items from the arts and craft stalls.

Residents Unite to Oppose Wind Farm

The Isles Communities Turbine action Campaign (TICTAC) was formed by residents in the area to protect their interests which are needed now more than ever due to the threat of this wind farm. Eon will be holding workshops so they can try persuade the advantages of giant 410 feet turbines. TICTAC do not receive government subsidies paid for by the taxpayer so they will not be holding workshops but Eon, a foreign company will receive a staggering £150, million. These subsidies cause energy bills to rise and will make British industry uncompetitive due to the green energy charges. We plan to hold an exhibition to show the true effect of this industrial development which will put jobs at risk and destroy protected open countryside close to Newton Aycliffe and Woodham.

Eon propose to build a generating station on unique historic open country landscape. This industrial monster can only be relied upon to produce 10% of its rated output (it will need 90% backup from fossil fuel generators) and will spread 24 turbines over an enormous area. IT WILL BE MUCH CLOSER THAN YOU THINK. The Government agency for Council tax valuations have accepted having wind turbines built near homes can sharply decrease their value. People living near newly built wind farms say the turbines have slashed property values because of noise, shadow flicker, and visual appearance as they tower above buildings. The noise in particular is causing health problems with lack of sleep and depression.

It has become clear wind farm developers have been accused of making their turbines seem smaller by using computer generated images with printed 50mm images. We hope to show in exhibitions in Aycliffe the horrific effect these turbines will have on your lives as they will be more than SIX times the height of The Angel of The North.

As the director of Renewable Energy Foundation, a charity publishing data on the energy sector said, "Current policies are making renewable deeply unpopular by creating a few rich and happy winners and a larger number of very angry losers". Great Aycliffe Town Council have written to the Secretary of State with many serious concerns on environmental issues. TICTAC have similar concerns which include the effect on a number of endangered and other birds and wildlife in general with serious risk of total destruction if this turbine landscape is allowed to proceed.

Knowing the land we believe the construction will require over 40,000 vehicle movements, mainly concrete lorries, causing huge disruption for over a year to local residents. Manufactured in Germany the turbine blades will be brought over and assembled by their workmen with no benefit to British Industry. We are all already paying for green energy to our electricity bills and this will rise. It is in the interests of all in Aycliffe and Woodham to join TICTAC's campaign and attend the exhibition which is planned shortly at Woodham Community Centre. Please express your concerns in Eon's questionnaire

DOWN SYNDROME CHARITY NOW BASED AT AYCLIFFE



The Pioneering Care Partnership are thrilled to welcome new tenants to the Centre in Newton Aycliffe, The Education Centre for Children with Down Syndrome (ECCDS). ECCDS is committed to helping children and their parents acquire essential skills that will equip them to meet the future with confidence. Over 100 parents, grandparents, children, volunteers, staff and carers turned out on Saturday 21st July to have a look round their new premises. Mike Armstrong (in photo) from Darlington attended with his family and Daughter Grace who is 1 years old and has Down Syndrome. Mike said: "We found out about ECCDS from an information pack at the doctors. The support we have received from the charity has been tremendous. Having the chance to meet and chat to other parents who are going through the same thing is really beneficial. Grace has a heart problem, common amongst children with the condition; she had open heart surgery at 3 months old, which was a difficult time for all of us. Just having people to talk to and understand what we were going through really helped. We have never been to the Pioneering Care

Centre before, the facilities are fantastic. We can all make use of the services such as the Hydropool, arts and crafts and the therapies and treatments." The group move to the Centre this month and they welcome children from across the North of England, including the counties of Durham, North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland & Cumbria. Further information on 321234 or enquiries@pcp.uk.net or www.pcp.uk.net.

Printmaking for Children

Print workshops suitable for children during the holidays are held at The McGuinness Gallery, Bishop Auckland Town Hall on Thursday 9th August from 10.15am – 12.15pm and 1.30pm – 3.30pm. Summer Holiday fun suitable for children aged 7 and over. Under 8's must be accompanied by an adult. Produce original handmade intaglio prints. Experiment with composition, texture, tone and colour. A good introduction to printmaking for all participants. Cost: £6.00 per session (must be pre-booked) Telephone: 01388 602610

FUNCTION ROOM

Are you looking for the ideal venue for that special party? Here at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex our Function Room is available for hire, so whether it's an engagement party, Wedding, anniversary or special birthday we can offer an extensive range of menu's with something for all budgets. The room will hold up to 60 people, with panoramic views over the surrounding country side. So why not let us worry about the mess and the catering and bring your function here - the only thing you need to do is have a good time. For further information, contact the Oak Leaf Sports Complex 01325-300600.

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Dance Academy at Woodham

Dancers at Woodham attended the launch of Woodham Sports Academy earlier this month, which offers high-quality coaching opportunities in a range of disciplines, including football, cricket, gymnastics, swimming, basketball, softball, table tennis and American football. Woodham Sports Academy is part of Woodham Academy and is a non-profit making organisation. The Dance Academy is open to all students in Years 7 and 8 who enjoy dance and want to have the opportunity to

perform. Students studying for GCSE Dance in Years 9, 10 and 11 can apply for membership to further develop aspects of their performance. Other keen dancers in Years 9 – 11 can also audition to join. Woodham Dance Academy is coached by Angela Minervini, a specialist dance teacher, who is part of Woodham's award-winning PE department. Miss Minervini will choreograph next year's show at Woodham Academy. We 'Will Rock You', based on the songs of Queen.



Caitlin Roberts, winner of Woodham's Got Talent 2012

Summer Fete

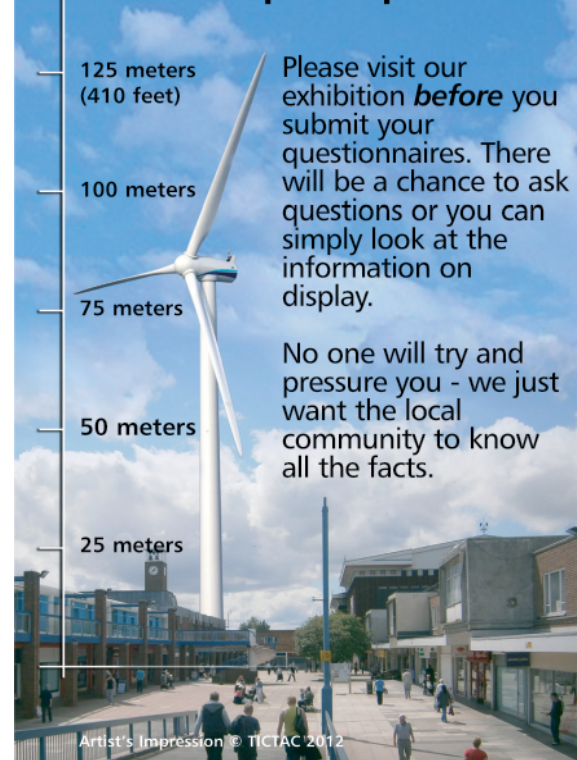
Lindisfarne Care Home at Silverdale Place are holding a Summer Fete on Saturday 11th August from 2pm. All proceeds are to go towards a Sensory Unit which will benefit all the residents. Stalls include: Handicrafts, Soft Toys, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Tombola and Homemade Cakes and Pastries. Please come along and support us. Refreshments will also be available.

The Isles Communities Turbine Action Campaign

Public Exhibition

Woodham Community Centre
Nr. The Huntsman, Newton Aycliffe.

Friday 10th August 2012
From 3.30pm - 7pm



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Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe - £69,000

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



Lingard Walk, Newton Aycliffe - £115,000

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



Oakfield, Newton Aycliffe - £100,000

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



Sunnysdale, Shildon - £80,000

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



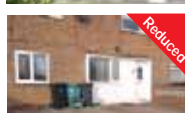
Bowes Road, Newton Aycliffe - £80,000

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



Guthrum Place, Newton Aycliffe - £81,000

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



Hatfield Road, Newton Aycliffe - £112,500

3 bedroom mid terrace property. Close to local amenities. Central heating, lounge, kitchen, dining room uPVC double glazing with enclosed gardens. Immediate possession.



Honister Place, Newton Aycliffe - £59,500

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



Kestrel Court, Newton Aycliffe - £139,999

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



Chillingham Grove, Woodham Village - £115,000

An attractive 3 bedroom semi detached property. Fitted kitchen/diner, modern bathroom / WC, DG, GCH, pleasant cul-de-sac location.



McKenzie Place, Newton Aycliffe - £75,000

3 bedroom link house conveniently situated for town centre, fitted kitchen, bathroom, garden, DG. Ideal family home

Council's Fun Day at the Park



The Town Park and the Youth Centre was the focal point for a number of activities for young people last Thursday. The full day event was organised by the County Council to inspire youngsters to take up new pastimes by bringing in experts from the region to demonstrate skills. Dancing, acrobatics, skateboarding, climbing and learning to play baseball with the town team "Spartans" was available. Sadly the weather interfered with the

programme, but the Youth Centre gave cover to many of the activities and the day proved to be successful and enjoyable for all concerned.



NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

A Free Family Film Show on Saturday 4th August at 3pm "The Smurfs". - Bring your friends.

Have you served your country in any of the Armed Forces, including National Service and have not yet received your Veterans Lapel Badge? Come and join us on Saturday 27th October at 3pm, when Hon Colonel James Ramsbotham will be presenting lapel badges to veterans. For an application form ring Peter Beatty on 313924.

We are looking to start new clubs in September for:

- 1 - Disabled new age kurling;
- 2 - Carpet bowls;
- 3 - Wednesday luncheon club with DVD;
- 4 - Ladies club with speaker or DVD, tea and biscuits;
- 5 - Ukulele - would you like your child to learn the easiest to play instrument? We will supply the equipment and will only charge a reasonable fee for a two hour session on a Saturday - date to be confirmed. Incidentally they are also the cheapest instrument to buy and places are limited.

To show an interest in any of the above please contact Peter on 313924

Advice Funding for Sure Start Centres

Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau is pleased to announce that funding has once again been confirmed for advice sessions in Sure Start Centres across our area.

The sessions are open on a drop-in basis for parents and carers of children under school age along with any 'parents to be'. The local session is available at the Children's Centre on Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe every other Monday 9am - 10.30pm with the next

session on 6th August and every other week thereafter. Drop-in and see us and we will be happy to help you.

Pauline Chambers, Chief Officer at the CAB said "Our Sure Start sessions have always been well used in the past and we are delighted to be able to offer them again thanks to funding from Durham County Council. We look forward to being able to help families directly in their communities once more."

Shildon CentreStage Theatre Group

We have just finished our latest production at the Civic Hall in Shildon and are about to embark on our Annual Panto, this year being Sleeping Beauty.

We are always on the look out for new ways to improve our productions and have decided that one way of doing this is to have our own Dance Troupe. So we are looking to our local community to enhance our group and would wish to hear from any budding dancers who may have been or are still presently part of dance schools or have been in productions before.

We are looking for anybody over 15 years of age who would like to join our group as a dancer and appear in the show in November of this year at the Civic Hall, Shildon. There will also be a great opportunity for any individual to help with the choreography for the show or just to be a participant in the dances.

We currently have many members from Shildon, Bishop, Barnard Castle and Newton Aycliffe and would love to see more people join from these area's as well as other area's locally. If you have an interest in the Arts we are always on the look out for new members and as we haven't cast for the Panto as of yet, any new members would be welcome.

So come and join our community based Theatre Group who meet on a Thursday at the Civic Hall in Shildon. If you are interested please give me a ring on 01325 313363 or have a look on our facebook page.

REME Medal Presentation



At the most recent meeting of local R.E.M.E. Association Mr. John W. Clement was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by Major C. Prince in recognition of his Regular Army Service, service with the T.A., TAVR, also his service with the South West Durham Branch R.E.M.E. Association as Vice

Chairman and Standard Bearer.

He is pictured here with his comrades wearing his headress. Meetings are held at the Scout Hall Headquarters on the last Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm and we are always ready to welcome new members from ex R.E.M.E., Regulars, T.A or TAVR living on the Town or not, so come along and join our ranks.

The King is Coming to Greenfield!

Greenfield Community and Arts Centre are very pleased to announce a showing of "The King's Speech" on Tuesday 7th August. We'll begin at 6.30pm and thanks to the GAMP AAP mobile cinema, we'll be able to bring the cinema experience directly to you, absolutely free! So if you feel like a little relaxation over the holidays, then why not come along with your friends and join us. Feel free to bring movie food! For more information please contact us: 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

Too Little Time for Consultation

Dear Sir,
I read with interest the article submitted by John D Clare in the edition released week-ending 20th July.

Mr. Clare states that "The County Council has just published on it's webpage a call for responses to it's Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy."

Attention is directed towards certain issues, namely Questions 3, 5 and 6. Mr. Clare extols the value of the N.H.S. and urges "as many Aycliffe people as possible to read the Strategy Document, complete the on-line reply and register for future consultations last date to reply is 11 July.

Regrettably the consultation period ended at the date stated. I would however, ask did the County Council carry out any other form of survey (not every family is on-line)? Did any public meetings take place and if so, when and where? Were any leaflets distributed? What was the precise date the Strategy and

survey went on-line? And finally how many responses were made?

I was disappointed not to have been able to participate in this project as I too hold the NHS in very high regard having entered the Health Service in 1949 and have witnessed many changes in all branches of medicine, surgery and community care. However, I do have some concerns about priorities, professional training standards and present standards of "care" in certain areas.

Ed: The consultation period was quite short and by the time a weekly newspaper such as ours published the details the date had passed, but hopefully the County Council allowed late replies.

Community Buddies Wanted

Wanted urgently Community Buddies to help at the Silverdale Community House. Volunteers needed to sit and read with young people in our new library. We also want to offer craft and art which they all enjoy. We need people who are willing to spend a few hours a week through the holidays and on a evening/weekend term time. There is no age limit but you would need a CRB check which we will pay for. We are on a bus route and age has no limit as long as you enjoy working with young people. Our Community House has just been refurbished so please come along and join us. Ring 01325 308094 or 07967 901477.

'Active Aycliffe' at the Great Aycliffe Show

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) through the Sedgefield Health Network is involved in a new initiative involving organisations such as Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP), Durham County Council's Sport and Physical Activity Team and local sports' clubs who have got together to run events and raise the profile of what's going on in Aycliffe.

The aim of 'Active Aycliffe' is to enable children, families and young people become fitter and healthier by participating in activities to improve their lifestyles.

To promote and encourage this initiative there will be an 'Active Aycliffe' partnership marquee at the Great Aycliffe Show on 25/26 August at Oakleaf Sports Complex, which will showcase the activities of local organisations such as the PCP, Lifestyle Fitness, Livin and Woodham Community College as well as clubs and associations who will be demonstrating their sports and activities.

Jane Hartley, PCP Chief Executive says: "We want people to visit our 'Active Aycliffe' tent at the show to discover the huge variety of local activities and services that people can access on their own doorstep. There will be tasters from sports clubs and activities such as cycling, skate track & health MOT's. There will be lots of things for all the family to see and do. We want people to have fun, try something new and celebrate what Aycliffe has to offer."

If you represent a local organisation/group that fits in with the Active Aycliffe aims above and would like to provide a demonstration or book a stall please contact Kirsty Hill, Marketing and Arts Co-ordinator at the Pioneering Care Partnership on email: kirsty.hill@pcp.uk.net tel: 01325 327430. Stalls will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Priority will be given to activities being delivered in Aycliffe that fit with the above Active Aycliffe Aims.

For further information on the PCP pop into the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF, call 01325 321234, email enquiries@pcp.uk.net or visit www.pcp.uk.net

THANK YOU

Dear Sir,
I would like to thank Counc. Billy Blenkinsopp for all his help. I would also like to thank Husqvarna for what they have done for me and the brilliant job they have made to the field I have. Not forgetting Bill and Bob who had what I would call an impossible job of cutting the grass following the landlord's refusal to no longer offer this service. They worked very hard and are two great chaps. A big thank you to all of you. Sylvia Snowball

Half a Million Hits for Newton News

The Newton News new website is still proving to be a winner with over half a million hits recorded in the last three months.

We are delighted our newspaper increases in popularity and it is down to the superb support we receive from the community we serve.

Readers will know we have no reporting staff and rely on news being sent in from all sections of the community. Our influence is undeniable and as a purveyor of local news unsurpassed, thanks to this valuable support from readers.

Others have tried to emulate our style with little success and been forced out of business. Our advertisers are very happy with the results they receive and their continued support is testament to our success and their own.

One of the reasons is the ratio of news to advertising found in Newton News. Businesses using our columns recognise their notices are not lost in multiple pages of solid advertisements and have a fair chance of being read, mixed with good news content.

We are constantly trying to improve and would welcome any suggestions from our readers. One reader asked if we could insert a crossword and this is something we used to offer 20 years ago, but we lost our compiler. If there is anyone willing to volunteer this service we would like to hear from you.

To contact the Editor Syd Howarth on e-mail syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Advertising queries are dealt with by Paul Howarth: paul@newtonnews.co.uk or contact us by calling 300212.

Sport Time

Why not come to Time Sports every Sunday from 11.30am till 5.00pm (you may pick up your child between 3.00 and 5.00pm).

Meet us at Martin Macolls shop, Beechfield, near the pond and the park, close to Stephenson Way Primary School. Please bring a water bottle, but remember the cost is completely FREE!!

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WOODHAM COLLEGE HOST INTERNATIONAL POP BAND



Last month saw an exciting event involving several Woodham College students. As part of a three day programme arranged by Durham Music Service, Woodham hosted concerts and performance workshops led by international artists The Stooges Brass Band. Based in New Orleans, Louisiana, The Stooges are renowned across the USA for their blend of traditional New Orleans brass and contemporary urban beats. The day started with a performance from the band, to an audience of Woodham students and staff, young players from across the whole region and several visiting local primary schools. The audience were treated to a variety of songs, ranging from Stevie Wonder to some of the band's original compositions. A particular

highlight came when some of the region's most talented students were invited on stage to perform 'Wind It Up' with The Stooges; a number which had the audience out of their seats and dancing along with the band. Following this fantastic performance, the band then went on to spend the rest of the day leading performance workshops. GCSE students from Woodham and other invited students from the regional ensembles had the opportunity to work with the experts and learn more about their instruments, exploring a musical genre that was new to many of those involved. Everyone who participated in the day thoroughly enjoyed it and took away valuable experiences, from having the opportunity to perform with leading artists in the field, or learning more about

improvising, to simply experiencing performing without relying on sheet music.

Ultimately the workshops led to a joint concert involving The Stooges and approximately 40 students playing together to show the success and achievements from throughout the day. Assistant Head Teacher, Jon Tait, spoke of his impressions of the event: "It's one of those days at school that I think we'll all remember. I can't remember many better experiences over the past 10 years!"

Two Woodham students, Abbie Finn (Y11) and Liam Brown (Y9), as well as some ex-Woodham students, went on to take part in another concert with The Stooges at Durham Gala Theatre on Friday 12th July.

They appeared as part of Durham County Youth Big Band and Little Big Band, and once again were lucky enough to perform on stage with The Stooges, although this time to a much larger audience.

Liam Brown found the experience particularly valuable: "I really enjoyed having the opportunity to learn from the musicians; they showed me some really helpful techniques for performing on the trombone and had a lot of good advice for us".

ATHLETICS NEWS

Richard Harvey, who is a member of Aycliffe Running Club, recently competed in the British Masters' Track & Field Championships at Derby and came back with gold.

Richard is one of the club's most senior members and in his younger days was a sub 3 hour marathoner, but now specialises veterans track races.

Running in the over 70s 800m he went into the lead at the start and steadily pulled away to win in 2:56.24. Over 9 seconds clear of the 2nd finisher and his fastest time since 2008. Well worth the journey.

MOTOR TORQUE

By Ramsays of Aycliffe



Tow-Way to go this Summer

School summer holidays mean the true arrival of summer and the following six weeks will see more families taking to the road for holidays at home and abroad. In particular many families are opting for a holiday at home with one in five people planning a caravan or camping holiday this year, me included! Nissan carried out a survey and found 20% of caravaners had actually only taking up towing within the last six months and an astonishing 40% of those who tow caravans have never received any training on how to do so safely.

Speak with most drivers and they'll admit a lack of knowledge about the towing power of their own car. This lack of knowledge can result in drivers purchasing caravans, boats or even trailers which are being pulled by underpowered vehicles.

However, there are now many courses available up and down the country designed to help motorists learn how to tow safely, some of which are even free. You can also find online services where you can enter the make and model of your car along with the type of caravan you're towing and they will provide all the information you need taking into account, top speeds, wind effects and road gradients. Another important factor to take into account is stability and if your car can tow a particular caravan safely. To help raise awareness and the importance of ensuring you're towing a caravan safely, the Highways Agency has released a new safety DVD called 'Fit to Tow' that can be found on their website at www.highways.gov.uk.

Here's my five top tips for towing this summer:

1. Check you are legally allowed to tow. Requirements differ according to when your license was issued
2. Know your towing limit as well as the maximum braked and unbraked towing weights (this can be found in your vehicle handbook)
3. Know the speed limits (60mph on motorways and dual carriageways and 50mph on single carriageways unless otherwise stated)
4. Allow more time and space for accelerating and braking
5. When approaching an incline select a lower gear in good time. Going uphill this provides extra power. Going down it reduces the strain on your vehicle's brakes.

Enjoy your summer wherever you go and safe

motoring.
Elliott Ramseys
Service Manager

"I WILL CUT THE GRASS"

Over the past few weeks I have been reading the articles on how elderly residents are being refused grass cutting services. I feel this is shocking, as these people need the help. Therefore I would like to offer to cut their grass at a charge of only £5. I am not a gardener and work full time, therefore I would need them to supply me with the lawn mower, as I do not have sufficient transport to take mine with me.

I will be available to do this on evenings after 7pm and all day Saturdays and Sundays. I will also be able to undertake other gardening duties for a small additional charge.

David McCormick, Tel: 07875 183672.

Bellringing for Olympic Games



Residents of St Andrews Court, Woodham, met as part of the national call for bell ringing to celebrate the start of the Olympics. They all then enjoyed breakfast together.

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Council Chairman Visits Woodham



The Chairman of Durham County Council, Cllr Linda Marshall, JP, accompanied by her husband and consort, Cllr David Marshall visited Woodham Community Technical College in Newton Aycliffe.

The Chairman wanted to meet the students who designed and manufactured, at the school medals and lanyards for the recent

County Durham International Games. With support from Durham County Council and nearby Aycliffe Fabrications, the pupils drew up the design and even oversaw the manufacturing and financial processes. The students' medals were distributed to the winning athletes at Durham County Council's International Youth Games.

"The medals were fantastic and we were very keen to find out how they came about their ideas along with the process of making them and above all to thank them for the high quality medal that went around the world."

Dog Centre Stays Open Later & Longer

The rehoming centre in Sadberge is keeping its doors open longer than ever before, closing at 7.00pm every Thursday until the end of September in a bid to entice more dog-lovers to visit the homeless hounds.

They have dogs of all ages, shapes and sizes here and they're all searching for new homes. It is hoped these extended opening hours will mean that more local residents will consider paying a visit after work and ultimately more dogs will find their happy endings with



new families.

If you are interested in rehoming a rescue dog call the Rehoming Centre directly on 01325 333 114 or visit at Hill House Farm, Sadberge, Co Durham, DL2 1SL.

"PROUD TO BE BRITISH"

The Deputy Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Barbara Clare and the Deputy Mayoress joined over 80 older people and their carers from Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area at a social event at the Xcel Centre on Thursday 2nd August.

A representative from the County Durham Community Foundation which part funded the event, was also present.

The event was hosted by Cloud Nine a charity based

in Xcel Church and the theme for the event was "Proud to be British".

The visitors came from care homes or older people living independently. They were entertained by a local choir, "The Meltones" and were encouraged to join in with many of the songs which were all linked to the theme "Proud to be British". They then had afternoon tea.

All those who attended had a great afternoon and are looking forward to the next event later in the year

The Wheelie Bin Fiasco

Dear Sir,

I'm sure I'm not alone with the recent fiasco regarding bin collections and the Health and Safety clipboard holders turning tough binmen into wimps overnight (without their knowledge).

I have a family of 4 which includes my wife and 2 daughters and can easily fill a wheelie bin in a week. Weekly collections were ideal, but now we are faced with bins overflowing and overweight as some binmen have advised, yet its the council's fault for changing from weekly to fortnightly.

Their solution is to purchase another wheelie bin which will cost a sizeable sum and they will also add a yearly charge. Absolutely stupid as there was nothing wrong with how things were and with lots of councils reverting back to weekly, I do hope ours does the same.

On a similar vein, the recycling team the council use are a disgrace. So many times they drop things out of recycling bins, boxes etc and can't be bothered or are too lazy to pick them up. Littering laws apply to you lot too so if you drop it, you should pick it up.

Darran Weston

NEW ZUMBA CLASS ON THURSDAY

Classes are changing with local ZUMBA instructor Helen Smith. A new class is on Thursday evenings 6.30pm at School Aycliffe Community Centre. Starting on Thursday 9th August.

This class will be replacing Wednesday morning classes at the leisure centre due to Helens other work commitments.

Other classes taught by Helen stay the same these are Mondays 10am, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and Saturdays 10am, School Aycliffe Community Centre.

If you would like further details please call or text 07506 984556 or check 'Helen Smith ZUMBA' on Facebook or just turn up on the day!

Bishop Auckland Hospital Garden Club

The next meeting of the Garden Club takes place on Tuesday 7th August at 8.15pm at BA Hospital Club on Escomb Road.

Further plans for the September Garden Show will be discussed.

All welcome

For further details contact Gil Berry (01388) 450524

Goodbye Mrs Jackson

Sue Jackson, a well-loved teacher at Sugar Hill Primary school, retired in early July and waved a sad farewell to the school, after over 20 years service helping many young children realise their potential.

All the staff and pupils wish her a long and happy retirement and hope that she can call in at some time in the future to let us know how she's getting on with her plans to travel the world.



Apprenticeships Offered at Hydram



Hydram at Chilton has been actively recruiting apprentices for several years and now has its own accredited training centre.

Over the last two years, Hydram has formalised its training, developing fixed training plans and progression routes for all apprentices. Having worked closely with local colleges which supplied candidates and delivered training, the company decided to bring the whole process in house.

Hydram is now able to deliver up to NVQ Level 3 with the backing of EAL, one of the leading awarding bodies for manufacturing and technical qualifications.

Working with a partner company, Habit Training, a programme has been designed which meets the needs of the business.

Apprentices gain not only the technical knowledge which is delivered onsite by members of Hydram's management team, but also the necessary practical skills on the latest production machinery: CNC laser cutting machines, punching machines, pressbrakes, milling machines and the newly-commissioned £1m paint and assembly facilities.

Operations Manager Stephen Beacham is well aware of the benefits of apprenticeships.

"There is a real need in the region and within our business to ensure we have good quality young people coming through to become the engineers, managers and technicians of the future. To do this we needed to ensure we attracted young school leavers into the business who had a keen interest in engineering or manufacturing," Stephen said.

It is hoped in the first instance that the training centre will provide Hydram with engineers who possess the skills and knowledge to keep the business at the forefront of UK sheet metalworking.

The longer-term strategy sees Hydram offering these services to other SMEs in the local area with the potential to offer qualifications nationally through online-based portfolios.

Hydram is continuing its apprentice recruitment programme and candidates are now being invited to apply for this year's September intake.

Anyone interested can log onto www.hydram.co.uk for more information and an application form.

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WIDE RANGE OF COMPETITIONS AT GREAT AYCLIFFE SHOW

If you were unable to win a place on Team GB for the Olympics, a wide range of sporting, horticulture and craft competitions will offer anyone a chance to shine at this year's Great Aycliffe Show. Organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council, the very popular Show will be taking place on the showfield next to the Oak Leaf Sports Complex on August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday 25th August and Sunday 26th August.

Entry forms are now available for the Handcraft and Horticulture Exhibition. This year's handcraft and home produce sections celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with a baking category for adults and poster category for young people. For keen growers, there are sections for vegetables and flowers, plus the closely fought Pot Leeks competition.

Prizes of £5, £4 and £3 will be awarded for first, second

and third place entries in each category. In the Pot Leeks category, the first prize is a portable television, plus £30 prize money and a trophy, with second and third prizes of £20 and £10. Trophies are sponsored by Deco Trophies and Engraving; horticultural trophies are sponsored by G. Little Testing Centre. The closing date for handcraft and horticulture competitions is Tuesday 21st August. The competitions are free to enter, only skill and imagination are required!

Although judging takes place on the first morning of the Show, Saturday 25th August, all entries will be displayed to the public throughout the Show.

The football competition is expected to surpass even last year's success, with 15 teams of Under 10s, 8 teams of Under 9s and 8 teams of under 8s. Teams will be attending from South Tyneside and Wearside, representing the Russel Foster Youth League.

Teams coming from Teesside and Hartlepool will represent the Teesside Junior Alliance League and of course there will be local rivals Newton Aycliffe Youth, Newton Aycliffe Juniors and Ferryhill and Bishop Auckland St Mary's.

This year's Golf Tournament is sponsored by Bewick and Neville Pharmacy and is free to all residents of the Parish of Great Aycliffe and takes place on Sunday 26 August. Members of the Oak Leaf Golf Club may also participate free of charge. There are categories for ladies, gentlemen, seniors and juniors and entries close on Monday 13th August.

There will be a show pigeon competition on the first day of the Show, with birds in 62 different categories, entries close on 3rd August. On the Sunday of the Show, pigeons give way to the pedigree rabbit show and competition, which is always very popular with children. Prize money will be awarded in each class and entry forms for this must be returned by 19th August.

Entry forms may be obtained from the Town Council Offices, tel 01325 300700, from the Oak Leaf Sports Complex, tel: 01325 300600 or downloaded from the website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

livin Demolish Derelict Nursing Home to Build 22 new Homes



Local shopkeeper Amrit looks over the plans for 22 new homes opposite her store

Homes and communities organisation livin is proposing to build 22 homes to replace a derelict nursing home which has become an anti-social behaviour hotspot. livin plans to demolish the former Greenfields Nursing Home, in Newton Aycliffe and build 11 two-bedroom and 11 three-bedroom homes for affordable rent and purchase.

The new development will involve investment of around £2 million and the properties will be built in partnership with housebuilding group Galliford Try.

Ian Brown, Head of Development and Allocations, for livin said: "There is a shortage of affordable housing in Newton Aycliffe and we are working hard to identify underused land and buildings for development. This is a significant

achievement for us, working in partnership with local communities to meet housing need. The site at Greenfields, if approved, will be our largest development to date and part of a programme to build a total of 45 properties in the area." In addition to offering the properties for affordable rent, livin are hoping to introduce its first affordable purchase scheme, which will help those looking to get onto the property ladder purchase select properties at a low cost.

A decision following the planning application is due to be announced by 25 September. If approved, work is due to start on the site in October/November this year with the properties to be completed by September 2013.

The plans to demolish the eyesore was welcome by residents in particular Amrit the local General Store owner who recently raised a 250 named petition to have the building pulled down as it was a danger to children.

Sugar Hill Nursery Graduation



The children of Sugar Hill Nursery graduated on Friday 20th July. All the Staff from Key Stage 1 wish them every happiness and

success in their learning journey and would like to thank parents and carers for their wholehearted support.



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Aycliffe Village Park

Tuesday 21st August

Horndale Park

Friday 24th August

St Oswald's Park

Tuesday 28th August

West Park

Friday 31st August

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For more information Telephone 01325 300600

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Lift Right Fork Lift Training made the long trip to Whiteleas in South Shields for their North East Durham League first division match and were handed a 59 run defeat. Batting first the homeside rattled up an impressive 219 for 3 declared after 41.3 overs with Sean Morgan the pick of the bowlers taking 3 for 42 from his 12 overs. In reply Aycliffe captain Chris Palmer smashed his third half century of the season's before being dismissed for 80 and with useful contributions from Ross Dixon (17 runs) and John Gledhill (18 runs), Aycliffe reached a respectable 160 when their last man was out in the 44th over.

The second team played only their 2nd game of the season and lost an excellent match by just 16 runs in their third division home game with Coxhoe. Playing with only 10 men due to late "cry offs", Aycliffe bowled and fielded superbly to restrict the visitors to just 91 for 8 in their allotted 40 overs. Dan Weldon lead the way for Aycliffe with the outstanding figures of 3 for 14 from his 10 overs and was given good support from Joe Hodgson who took 2 for 17 from his 10 overs. In reply Aycliffe got off to a flier with opener John Wardle smashing a typically robust 18 runs. When he was dismissed, Dan O'Connor took over and

batted brilliantly finishing unbeaten with 32 runs, but unfortunately he ran out of partners despite almost 20 overs of the innings remaining as Aycliffe were bowled out for 75.

Newton Aycliffe's under 18's made the short trip to Shildon for their final game of the season and came away with a fantastic nine wicket victory. Batting first the home side made a challenging 124 for 4 in their allotted 20 overs, despite some good bowling from Aycliffe's Sam Telford who finished with 3 for 26.

In reply Aycliffe lost a wicket in the 2nd over, but a magnificent unbroken 2nd wicket partnership of 118 between captain Michael Howe (60 not out) and Sam Telford (49 not out) saw their side to a memorable win with 2.1 overs still remaining.

The club's under 15's lost at home to Evenwood by 24 runs as they failed to chase down a victory target of 88, despite Ben Nicholson top scoring with 18 runs and Tom Wickins chipping in with 13 runs as Aycliffe finished on 63 for 8 after 20 overs. The u11's team were well beaten by 46 runs at home to Hartlepool, but the under 13's had a great win by 23 runs at home to Seaton Carew thanks to good performances from both Usman Abbasi, who took 3 for 8 with the ball and captain Josh Pearson, who top scored with 10 runs.

Summer Football Sessions for Juniors

Football training sessions are being held in leisure centres across County Durham during the summer holidays.

The sessions, organised by Durham County Council, include On the Ball junior football coaching for young children and pay and play sessions for older kids.

On the Ball junior football coaching camps are for children aged six to 11.

The three-day courses, which cost £15, are aimed at helping youngsters – including the most inexperienced players – to learn football skills and build their confidence in a fun and exciting environment.

They are being held throughout August on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre – 10am until 12 noon;

Durham County Council's Neil Trainor, who co-ordinates the On the Ball sessions, said: "The summer football sessions are all professionally run and will help young people to build their confidence while learning new skills."

"They're designed to be fun and exciting and are perfect if you're stuck for something to do during the school holidays."

Further information at Durham County Council on 03000 266 442 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/ontheball

Fishing Match for Charity

The Rainbow Trust are holding a Charity Fishing Match on Carr's Angling Lakes at Stockton on Tees on Sunday 2nd September.

The draw is at 10am with Fishing from 11.30am-4.30pm. The cost, all in, is £20.

For more information call Sandy Sanderson on 307993 or 07599 204120.

Rainbow Trust provides emotional and practical support to families with children who have life threatening or terminal illnesses.

FA CUP MATCH IN AYCLIFFE

FA Cup football will return to Newton Aycliffe next week as the town's club hope to embark on a fairytale run. The Newtonians welcomed the famous trophy to Moore Lane Park last August in what was their first-ever game in the competition. Unfortunately, after a media hullabaloo which brought the region's TV cameras to the town again, Aycliffe were hammered 7-2 by Billingham Synthonia.

But Allan Oliver's side will get a second bite of the cherry next week, when the 2012-13 season kicks off with the FA Cup. Aycliffe will host North-West Counties Division One side Holker Old Boys, from Barrow-in-Furness, in the extra preliminary round of the FA Cup with Budweiser next Saturday (11th August), 3pm kick-off.

The winner of the tie will travel to either Crook Town or Penrith, both from the Northern League, in the preliminary qualifying round. Holker's best performance in the competition came in 2005-06 when they reached the second qualifying round, three rounds further than Aycliffe managed in their inaugural campaign last season.

Aycliffe will then begin their Northern League first division campaign on Saturday 18th August with a trip to Marske United, followed by a home tie against Hebburn on Wednesday 22nd August.

FIXTURES

Friday 3rd August: Harrogate Town (H), 7.30pm, friendly
Saturday 11th August: Holker Old Boys (H), 3pm, FA Cup

Saturday 18th August: Marske United (A), 3pm

Wednesday 22nd August: Hebburn Town (H), 7.30pm

Saturday 25th August: Norton & Stockton (A), 3pm

Monday 27th August: Bishop Auckland (H), 1pm

Saturday 1st September: Spennymoor Town (A), 3pm

www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Meanwhile, Gavin Barton bagged a second successive brace of goals as Newton Aycliffe won 3-2 at Richmond Town last Saturday. Aycliffe's new striker scored two at home to Percy Main Amateurs, and followed it up with another two at Wearside League side Richmond.

Boss Oliver, who continues his pre-season preparations with a home friendly against Blue Square North side Harrogate Town this Friday night, is pleased with this summer's progress up to now. "Pre-season is all about fitness," said Oliver.

"It's really about getting minutes under the belt, and from that point of view I'm happy with that, and delighted with the five new signings we've made up to now. It will take time for them to settle in, and I think we need to be mentally stronger as well, because we switched off at Richmond on Saturday. But pre-season is what it is and I'm fairly happy up to now. It's great to see Gavin scoring goals, if we give him the service he'll score, and I'm confident he'll get us a lot of goals this season."

Barton got two during a confident first half on Saturday, while winger Stuart Owen netted the Newtonians' third.

After a host of changes the home side managed to claw themselves back into the game, but Aycliffe held on to win 3-2.

Free Quakers Tickets for Youngsters



Youngsters are being offered free football match tickets as part of summer coaching courses in Sedgefield and Newton Aycliffe. For every child who takes part in his four-day course later this month, Darlington manager Martin Gray is buying a match ticket for the Quakers' first game of the new season.

The summer sessions, which cost £50 per place for all four days, run from Monday 13th August to Thursday 16th August (10am to 3pm every day) at Sedgefield Community College, and from Monday 20th August to Thursday 23rd August at Greenfield Community College Newton Aycliffe and are available to boys and girls aged 5-14.

Every participant will get a free match ticket to Darlington's first Northern League game against Bishop Auckland, at Bishop's Heritage Park ground in the opening day of the 2012-13 season on Saturday 18th August, when a capacity 2,000-crowd is expected.

They will also get the chance to meet Darlington's players after the game, to get pictures and autographs. "We want to involve as many local youngsters as possible on our courses, which are becoming more and more popular every year," said Gray, who heads up Greenfield School's renowned Football Academy and took over as Darlington manager earlier this summer.

"Our emphasis is always very much on fun, so regardless of ability everyone enjoys themselves first and foremost, but our coaches will also bring the best of our more talented players.

"We want to encourage all youngsters to get involved in football, in a safe and fun environment with fully-qualified and CRB-checked coaches, and everyone who has signed up to our previous courses have enjoyed the experience."

To book a place/s on the summer coaching course, or for more details about the Martin Gray Football Academy and its services, call Martin on 07738 131914

emailinfo@martingrayfootballacademy.co.uk, or go to www.martingrayfootballacademy.co.uk

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Woodham Resident's Autobiography

Ken Wilkinson has written his life story available from Amazon. He put pen to paper to present his family with a record of his fascinating life and career.

Ken was born of Durham parents in Nottinghamshire. His father was a miner and had to move to Mansfield as there was no work for him in the Durham coalfield. However they grew home-sick and returned to live in Tindale Crescent later moving to a new house in Chilton.

Ken's Uncle Jim Wilkinson and his family lived in Newton Aycliffe and was a well known heavyweight boxer. His Father was drafted into the Royal Ordnance Police in Newton Aycliffe for the whole of the Second World War.

Ken was trained in a Solicitors, and then as an Insurance Agent. His first managerial appointment was at Bishop Auckland, and then Stockton on Tees. He has enjoyed a very successful career in law, insurance and acting, taking him all over the country.

"Wherever I went, I was proud of being a northern lad from Durham. My first wife Pearl and I always dreamed of returning to our roots when I retired from the City of London, having fulfilled my dream of becoming the Chairman of the Liverpool Victoria, but her health would

not allow it, and sadly she died in 2003.

"I was lucky to meet my second wife, Wendy, some time later and although she was born in Hampshire, she always wanted to live in the beautiful north. This suited us both very well and we picked Woodham as our new home as it is a very pleasant modern open area and well situated for easy travelling. It goes without saying the people in this part of the world are extremely friendly."

Ken's hobbies include photography, caravanning, walking and writing. He was the Public Relations Officer for the Scout movement in Corringham and was given a page a week to write on scout matters in the Thurrock weekly Gazette.

Football has always been a great interest and in Aberdeen he formed a football league



for under 12's which is still in existence today. In Surrey he saved a junior football club from going under. When he became a member of the Board of the Liverpool Victoria he was President of the LV Club and later President of the Insurance and Finance Football League. When he left Aberdeen Ken was proud to read an article that bore the headline "Aberdeen Loses a Friend"

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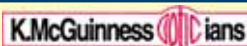
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YOUR TALENT**

There is still time for younger
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Youth Centre.

Joan Clark, Secretary and
organiser of Young Aycliffe's
Got Talent said "Several
young people the youngster
7 and the oldest 17, have
already registered for the
contest, but I know there is a
lot more talent out there who
have yet to register. Last year
nearly 30 younger people
took part in the heats and we
want to increase that number.
I also encourage any of last
year's contestants who didn't
win through to the finals, or
who have a different talent to

register again".

The Chairman of last year's
judges David Brittle who is
lead singer with The Hyads a
Darlington Indi Rock Group
said. "It was a privilege to have
been involved in the contest
and there was an outstanding
amount of talent amongst the
many contestants. We had
a wide range of performers
from 5 year old singer and
dancer, along with 5 year and
7 year old dancers, incredible
ballroom dancers, a singer/
guitarist, a number of soloists
and also a 7 piece bands with
their own 3 vocalists. The
task of finding a winner was
difficult.

All contestants were invited
to take part in a Showcase
earlier this year but the band

had to decline the offer due
to gigs they had booked
following the contest. I am
looking forward to seeing
what this year will bring".

If you are under the age of 19
and live in the area and have a
talent of any type which you
feel other people might enjoy
listening to or watching then
you can get your registration
form from reception at the
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Heats are anticipated to take
place from September when
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clover and is made by Avon.
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Aycliffe Project's Big Lottery Award



Mandy Shaw with two of the young people in the polytunnel at Hope House in Newton Aycliffe

Young people in a supported housing project in Newton Aycliffe are celebrating some blooming great news – a £9,681 Big Lottery Fund award for a horticultural training scheme. ROCSOLID, which works with 30 or so young people, applied for the fund's Awards for All cash to build on the work already in progress at their Hope House base. The charity works with care leavers, young people with physical and learning difficulties, pregnant teenagers and young families. "We are absolutely delighted!" said operational manager Mandy Shaw. "The money will allow us to kit out a new training room – our equipment will include

much-needed laptops, a video camera and a projector – and to offer accredited training. We'll also be able to buy gardening equipment and all the health and safety gear we need, including safety footwear and protective clothing. "We already have a poly tunnel in the grounds – the young people are growing a range of plants, herbs and vegetables. They're already using the plants to improve where they live by making planters – next year they're planning to make hanging baskets, too. Some of our young people live in flats next to our offices and others live in houses in the local community so they'll be doing their bit to make the

environment more attractive as well as learning new skills," she said. "The money also means we can install three water butts and create ten raised beds so they can grow more fruit and veg and learn more about healthy lifestyle choices. "We also have a volunteer mentor scheme for people in the community can pass on what they know about gardening and act as role models." ROCSOLID has Investing in Children accreditation and caters for predominantly 16 to 25-year-olds. The charity was launched by Derek and Dot Butler nearly five years ago – the couple own Reach Out Care Fostering Services and wanted to do more to help care leavers and other vulnerable young people. Visit www.reachoutcare.co.uk for more information about fostering and ROCSOLID.

Accommodation

- 3 BEDROOM** houses in Newton Aycliffe. 2 bedroom house in Shildon. Housing benefit welcome. Tel 07540 640591
- 3 BEDROOM** house for rent/sale in Hallington Head, Newton Aycliffe. Good condition, £395 pcm. no DSS. Opposite Greenfield School. Tel 07899 076316
- 3 BEDROOM** property, off street parking, £450 per month. Langdale Place. DSS/ Professional welcome. Tel 07950 672689
- 1st FLOOR** modern apartment, Woodham Village, partly furnished, £350 per month + £350 bond. Tel 07588 513279
- 3 BEDROOM** semi for rent, Hallington Head, £110 per week. Tel 07540 256364 for details
- 2 BEDROOM** Semi in Hind Court, Woodham. Rent £450 per month, £450 Bond. £100 Admin. Tel 07814 022301
- 3 BEDROOM** House in Airtown Place. £105 per week. 4 weeks in advance + guarantor. Tel 07780 333398
- 3 BEDROOM** property, off street parking, £450 per month. Langdale Place. DSS/ Professional welcome. Tel 01325 492835
- 2 BEDROOM** house with garage to let. Washington Crescent area. £450 per month rent, £400 bond. Tel 07875 916269
- 4 BEDROOM** house to rent in Coronation Road, Chilton with utility room and loft conversion. Rent £550 per month, bond and refs required. Tel Chris 07577 428437

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ROSE LODGE OLYMPICS



Rose Lodge enjoyed a fun packed "Olympic" themed week. They kicked off on Monday with the residents designing their own Olympic torch for the event. We then went on to compete in many sports with both residents and staff joining in. One competitor, Ann Purvis, aged 87 years, was especially proud as her son Jim, who is an Olympian, joined us in our games. Jim Purvis is a former British vault champion. (pictured with Mrs Purvis and his sister). The week came to a close with a medal ceremony for all our winners.



Obituary

Madge Minnes



On 24th July 2012. Passed away peacefully at home, aged 65 years. Loving Wife of Joe Minnes; Extraordinary Mother of John, Kim, Paul, Sharon, DonnaMarie and Nathan; Remarkable Gran and Great Gran of many and Foster Mum to many. Always in our hearts. Funeral Service to take place at St Clare's Church on Tuesday 7th August at 10am. Followed by resting place at West Cemetery.

SHEILA HOGAN (dearly beloved Wife of the late Terry Hogan). Passed away at home on 27th July, aged 76 years, after a very courageous battle. Cherished Mother of Paul, Mark, Susan, Rosalind and Jonathan. Mother in Law to Keith and Ann. Devoted Nana to Rachele, Laura, Richard, Charlotte, Sarah, Lucy, Hannah and Georgia. Family and friends please meet for Service at St Clares Church, Newton Aycliffe on Monday 6th August for 2.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if so desired to Cancer Research which may be given at the British Legion

Thank You

Rosie Jessica Whitfield



Thank you to everyone for coming to my Christening on Staturday 28th July and for the gifts and cards received; special thank you to Carol Foster for an amazing cake

Kaci



would like to thank her family, GodParents and friends for attending her Christening Day and for all the lovely gifts she received. "I had a lovely day"

TERRY & TERRY would like to thank everybody who turned up at their 70th/63rd birthday party. Special thanks to Vicky, Liz and Kath for the cake and decorations and everybody for the wonderful gifts.

Congratulations

Luke Surtees



Happy 13th Birthday Luke
Have a great day. Love you loads from Mam xxx
Happy 13th little Bro!
Love from Alex, Jasmin and Ryan xxx
Happy Birthday Uncle Lukey
Lots of love and kisses from Sohla xxx

ROB GRAHAM Happy 50th birthday. Have a great birthday. Love, Craig, S-J, Madison and Mackenzie xxx
JACK WILLIAM SHEARER DAVIES. 6th August 2012. Happy 16th Birthday Son, Lots of Love Mam & Dad xx
JACK WILLIAM SHEARER DAVIES. Happy 16th Birthday Jack, Lots of Love Tom & Paige x

Birthday Remembrance

VINCE ANGUS 80 years. No cards to send, no presents to give, but in my heart you will always live. Loving Wife, Iris and Family xxx

In Memoriam

FORGHAM BENNETT 16 years since you left us and it still feels like yesterday. I love and miss you more than words can say. Love, Sheila
FORGHAM BENNETT An Uncle and Great Uncle, always in our thoughts. Sean, Dean, Rebecca, Cory, Brooklyn and Levi
FORGHAM BENNETT Dearest Son of Violet and the late Arnold. Memories of loving you are mine to treasure. The sadness of losing you is heartache forever. Your love was special and so were you. You are always with me in all I do. Mam

DOROTHY POSKETT Died 6th August 2005. Treasured memories of a loving Mam and Grandma. Loved and remembered always. Sandra, Michael and Gemma xxxx
POSKETT - DOT Died 6th August 2005. Treasured memories of a special Mam, Grandma and Great Grandma. Always in our thoughts, with love from Susan, Michelle, Kevin, Lisa and families xxxx

Births

DANIEL Congratulations on having a baby Brother. You will be a brilliant big Brother. Lots of love, Granny, Grandad Jimmy and Aunt Rachel xx
SARAH & RICHIE Thank you for giving me another gorgeous Nephew. Lots of love, Rachel xx
RICHIE & SARAH Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful Son "Jamie John Bennett-Scott". You are both brilliant parents xxx
THANK YOU to my gorgeous girl Sarah for giving me another beautiful Son "Jamie John Bennett-Scott. Born 13th July 2012, weighing 8lb 7oz
SECKER Jemma and Chris, congratulations on the birth of your Son Riley on 20th July. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Chelsey, Tracy, Scott, Kaye and Hayden xxxx

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

Rob Graham



50 on 3rd August 2012
Happy birthday to my darling Husband, you are the best! Have a great weekend. Love you always from Lisa xxxx
Happy birthday to the best Dad and Granda. Lots and lots of love from Jessica, Laura and your little star Mason xxx
To a wonderful Son Rob. Have a great weekend. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and all the family xxx

David & Kerri Hailes (Wade)



Congratulations on your Wedding Day, 21st July 2012. Wishing you many years of happiness together. Love from all the family

Mark Moore



Congratulations on obtaining your Degree in BA (Hons) Business Studies at Leeds Met. We are very proud of you. Love from Mam, Dad, Becky and Nanna

Joe & Elizabeth Jameson

2nd August 1952

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations Mam and Dad on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary. From your loving Son, Christopher xxxx

Donny Williams



Happy 40th Birthday 4th August 2012

Hope you have a great day. Love from Craig, S-J, Madison and Mackenzie xxx
Happy 40th birthday Dad. Lots of love from Chloe and Chloe xx

Marie & Tony Moore



Congratulations Marie and Tony on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Love from Mam and Family xxx
Happy Anniversary Mam and Dad, 25 years and somehow still going strong! Love from Mark and Becky xxx

MARIE & TONY MOORE Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anniversary Marie and Tony. Love from Auntie Pat and family

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Re-thinking our Approach to Physical Activity

Lack of exercise is now causing as many deaths as smoking across the world, a study suggests. The report, published in the Lancet to coincide with the build-up to the Olympics, estimates that about a third of adults are not doing enough physical activity, causing 5.3m deaths every year. It's medically proven that people who do regular physical activity have:

- up to a 35% lower risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- up to a 50% lower risk of type 2 diabetes or colon cancer
- up to a 20% lower risk of breast cancer
- a 30% lower risk of early death
- up to an 83% lower risk of osteoarthritis
- up to a 68% lower risk of hip fracture
- a 30% lower risk of falls (among older adults)
- up to a 30% lower risk of depression or risk of dementia

Whether you are new or returning to exercise, Aspire Fitness and Health has introduced a Wellbeing Package to help you get on track and combat such illnesses. A mixture of low intensity classes such as Basic Aerobics, Pilates, Fitball, BodyBalance and Zumba are the perfect combination to kick-start the Wellbeing in your life.

For a special introductory offer of only £20 for a full month you can enjoy the choice of fifteen classes every week at a time to suit you. Offer valid until Friday 31st August 2012.

For further information on the Wellbeing Package: visit our website at www.aspirefitnessaycliffe.co.uk - Call: Sharon on 07879 996728 or Sherri on 07787 420483. We can also be found on Facebook: Aspire Fitness and Health or drop in to Durham Way North, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6HP Email: sharon@aspirefitnessltd.co.uk or Email: sherri@aspirefitnessltd.co.uk

TOWN SPORTS CLUBS CAN SCORE, THANKS TO MILLER HOMES

House builder Miller Homes is celebrating this year's summer of sport by putting £500 up for grabs to local sports clubs across the region.

Clubs and organisations in the North East are being urged to put themselves forward for the chance to win the pot of cash by collecting an application form from one of Miller Homes' developments across the region.

Entrants will have to say in no more than 200 words why their sports club deserves to win the money, how it will benefit the club and what it will be spent on. The entries will be judged by the Miller Homes team as well as Newcastle Falcons stars. Miller Homes' regional sales director Steve

McElroy said: "To celebrate this year's famous sporting events we thought it would be great to launch our own Summer of Sport community initiative.

"We are always keen to support local communities, particularly in education, sport and development, as building great communities and ensuring adults and children have interesting, interactive, safe and secure surroundings is at the heart of our ethos.

"As one of the judges I will be looking for examples of how the sporting clubs in our communities will be able to make the most of out the donation, how it will directly support the learning and fitness for its members that use the facility and examples of what new equipment they will be able to buy."

Details of the initiative have been sent to local school summer clubs, scouts, girls guides as well as local sporting clubs. Alternatively, community leaders and club managers can pick up an entry form at one of Miller Homes' marketing suites across the North East.

The closing date for entries is Sunday 2nd September 2012 giving entrants plenty of time to prepare a winning application.

Developments across the region include Cobblers Hall in Newton Aycliffe. For more information on Miller Homes call: 0870 336 4100 or visit www.millerhomes.co.uk

Aycliffe Cyclists Win Trophies



Two of Aycliffe's talented Racing Cyclist Alex Evans and Ralph Hodgson were 1st and 2nd at the Croft Circuit Series Race held recently. Both are aged 15 and students at Woodham College.

The Croft Circuit Series Under 16 Race runs for a period of 15 weeks. Ralph was not present for the photograph as he is currently on holiday in France.

Alex and Ralph have done really well in their first season of racing, having trained hard over the winter months putting in many miles. Both now race regularly around the North East and show great potential.

In the photograph with Alex is James Alder (left) who is currently one of the top riders in the North East. He was pipped for 1st place by only 3 points in the Senior

Race. All the riders are part of Team VC Briganti / Cycleways RT, sponsored by Cycleways at Neville Parade.

The cyclists would like to thank Colin from Cycleways Sport & Leisure for all the support over the season.

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