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## WOODHAM QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL FINAL



On 11th of March the Under-13 gymnastics team from Woodham Technology College competed in the North of England Floor and Vault competition at Joseph Swan School in Gateshead. They each had to perform a floor routine and a vault and did so with impressive results. As a team the girls qualified to compete in the national finals in Stoke-on-Trent on the 13th of May.

Charlotte Jenner (Y7) who came second and Victoria Archer (Y8) who achieved first place overall. This was the first time Woodham have ever entered a regional gymnastics competition, making their achievement even more impressive.

Individual medals were also awarded to Rebecca Carr (Y8) and Chloe Simpson (Y8), who won joint third,

## Three Fight for Town Council Seat

There will be three candidates in the By-Election to fill the vacancy on the Town Council following the death of Terry Hogan.

WENDY HILLARY of Ross Walk, Labour Party.  
KENNETH STUBBS, Biscop Crescent, Great Aycliffe Independents.  
JOHN TURNBULL of Swan Walk with no Party affiliation.

The Election in the Shafto/St. Mary's Ward will take place on Thursday, 5th April 2012.

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## Honest John Donates £1250 to Local Groups

This week Honest John has donated £450 to the Turbinia Football Club, £400 to St. Clare's Brownies and £400 to St. Clare's Guides.

John thanks all those who support the stall by donating unwanted goods. He is now selling goods to support Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society.

John was interested in standing as an Independent in the Town Council By Election, but unfortunately missed the deadline.

He told Newton News he will consider putting his name forward at the next election as he believes he could usefully place his weekly market stall as a point of contact for residents.

John also thanks those who nominated him for the County Council Award, but stressed his reward comes from helping others.

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## What's On in the Village

**WI MEETING.** It's time to make those Easter eggs and bonnets in time for the next meeting of Aycliffe Village WI which takes place on Wednesday, March 28, in Aycliffe Village hall at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Edna Oswald who will talk about My Life In Crafts Through The WI, and the competition is for the best Easter egg and/or hat. For details, call the President Kathy Round on 01325-315732.

**JUNIOR DISCO.** It's disco time for children aged five to 12 years at Aycliffe Village Hall on Friday, March 30, from 6.30-8pm. Hot dogs and a range of snacks and drinks will be available. Children can also have a glitter tattoo for £1. Entry is £1.

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## New Pharmacy at Bewick Crescent



Neville Pharmacy in Newton Aycliffe is investing almost £500,000 in expanding its presence in the town. This week it opened a new facility adjoining the Bewick Crescent Surgery, creating five new jobs.

The new Bewick Pharmacy will give the surgery's patients convenience of an on-site pharmacy for prescriptions. The shop will also stock a wide range of over the counter medicines, with the expertise of a qualified pharmacist available.

The original Neville Pharmacy, which was acquired from Norchem has been providing services from Neville Parade for more than 60 years.

Bewick Pharmacy was officially opened by Dr Brian Jones and Dr Bert Chamberlain, former partners at the Bewick Crescent surgery. Dr Chamberlain's father was the original owner of Neville Pharmacy in 1952. Neville Pharmacy is also enhancing its service by expanding its free personal delivery service for all customers' prescriptions presented to the pharmacy on Neville Parade, making it easier and more flexible for customers to

receive their medication. Neville Pharmacy collects prescriptions from all surgeries in Newton Aycliffe and will deliver them to your home or workplace in Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area.

Rob Pitt, Managing Director of Bewick Pharmacy, said: "We are delighted to officially open the new pharmacy next to Bewick Crescent Surgery. This investment will enable us to service the surgery's patients and the wider community."

"We have put together a team of quality staff to ensure a high level of service and expertise."

"Neville Pharmacy will now operate a bespoke delivery service, across Newton Aycliffe and to residents who live a little further afield. This free service will be of great benefit to many people, particularly the elderly and housebound."

"Neville Pharmacy has been the core service for residents in Newton Aycliffe for around 60 years. We are proud to be expanding our services at Bewick Crescent Surgery and will still be offering a full range of products at Neville Parade with the addition of a bespoke prescription delivery service."



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## FICTITIOUS EMERGENCY AT INEOS, AYCLIFFE – DON'T BE ALARMED

A fictitious emergency scenario will test the responses of the police, fire brigade and local authorities later this month.

It's being organised by Durham County Council's Civil Contingencies Unit with Darlington Borough Council and the emergency services to test plans for COMAH. (The control of major accident hazards)

It will take place at the Ineos site on School Aycliffe Lane in Newton Aycliffe on Wednesday March 21st.

PC Steve Holden, from Durham Constabulary's operational and contingency planning unit, said: "This exercise is part of our regular programme of testing and exercising to ensure the emergency services and local authority can respond effectively to incidents of this type."

"As well as being good

practice, this is a legal requirement for all chemical sites storing and working with hazardous materials.

"As it's a live exercise, there will be a number of emergency services vehicles and personnel operating in the area. We will liaise with local residents to keep them updated about the event and there will be additional PCSOs on patrol during the exercise to provide community reassurance."

"The benefit of this training will be to put into practice a range of practices and procedures to better prepare us for the real events."

The practice scenario will result in an increased noticeable presence of the emergency services at the site and around Newton Aycliffe in general. Members of the public are advised not to be alarmed as it is a training exercise.

**THE TURBINIA**  
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**Saturday 17th March - "MUGSHOT"**

Bio: MUGSHOT, a four piece band from the South Shields area playing modern and classic rock covers by bands such as Bon Jovi, Chili Peppers, Kings of Leon, Metallica, Muse, U2, Van Halen and Whitesnake, to name but a few. "We hadn't seen this band before so we didn't know what to expect and boy did they rock The Hearts!! Something for everyone in the set that had the dancers on their feet, the one's I remember were U2, Whitesnake, Killers, Kings of Leon, Tom Petty, Nirvana, Guns n Roses, The Cult, Radiohead... etc, all played and sung brilliantly!! If you haven't already seen this band, go and see them, you won't be disappointed!! [www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband](http://www.myspace.com/mugshotrockband)

**Saturday 24th March - "THE KILL"**

"The band took to the stage, from the off it was a great hard rock attack that set the vibe that would continue throughout the performance. Vocalist Gregg took centre point on stage and really went for it. Not just vocally but physically too! I've said it before and I'll say it again, the Office stage is bigger than most pub set-ups and it needs a band with a genuine physical presence to attract the audience's attention in a building of that size. They had that charisma about them. The rock style of the band continued on with a commercial AOR feel on such songs as Def Leppard's 'Animal', and even though the group did generally go down the path of recognisable rock anthems, it never became too cheesy or entirely predictable. I think they hit a marvellous balance of choosing songs that would have a larger appeal, and yet still maintained an element where you weren't too sure what was coming next" - Colin Smart Review. Tracks covered by: Bon Jovi, Foo Fighters, Def Leppard, Guns n Roses, Linkin Park, Metallica, Ozzy, Pearl Jam, Skid Row, Poison and More - [www.thekill.co.uk](http://www.thekill.co.uk)

**Friday 30th March - SKA-MANIA**

Rockermouth review from 'Stormin the Castle': "I'd never seen Ska-Mania before. I'd briefly met the singer when he was at The Office one evening watching a band play, and I knew John the keyboardist as he is also the keys-player with the local Whitesnake tribute band, Slip of the Tongue. But I was very impressed with what I saw. They are a seven-piece outfit, comprising of bass, drums, guitar, keys, horn section of sax and trombone, plus a separate lead singer. They have a great full sound, lots of visuals to see on stage with the group having plenty of members, and you got all the superb bouncy ska classics that you'd expect to hear. I must have missed the first half of the gig, but I did get to hear songs like 'On My Radio' by Selector, plus a ton of Madness tunes including 'Embarrassment', 'Madness' and the awesome 'Nightboat to Cairo'. Most of the band were dressed up for the occasion (all suited and booted), and performed extremely well. For the stage/band area, nothing that much had changed from previous set-ups for 'Stormin'. Even the terrible weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the bikers out front dancing along to the music. Ska music has that infectious groove inherent within it, and like-wise there were plenty of folk out there loving it all and getting right in to it. Time was the only real factor that the bands had to battle with for their performances, and unfortunately it took longer time than anticipated to get Ska-Mania off and running. So they had their set cut short by 10 minutes to try and catch back up on schedule with the rest of the acts, but for their brief appearance they did a highly impressive job and certainly brought with them a bit of sunshine for the soul for all those watching. So good in fact that I'd like to see their full set someday, and hope that I can do it soon". NO COVER CHARGE - BE EARLY - FULL HOUSE EXPECTED

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## I Will Donate the First £100

Dear Sir,  
I am concerned about the future of CAB and suggest that Town Councillors each donate £100 from their allowance and our County Councillors £1000. We could also take £1000 from Mayoral budget to help keep the CAB afloat.  
**Alan Warburton, GAI Councillor**

## Professional Music and Drama Shows at Greenfield

Greenfield have been very lucky to have had two fantastic live performances recently. On Thursday 1st March, new Boyband "FTW", who have just been signed to Universal Records, treated us to three tracks, a question and answer session, followed by a photo signing opportunity. Then, on Monday 5th March, the Angel Hullabaloo came to us. All Year 7 and 8 pupils were treated to this performance: which was about two lives colliding, and their friendship which defied age and time; a young girl helped a lady with Alzheimer's right the wrongs of the past. Our pupils asked great questions of the actors afterwards about the performance itself - of aging and dealing with memory loss as well as asking about the actors' careers. Both performances were a truly fantastic opportunity for all those involved; staff, pupils and the performers themselves.





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## Wheelie Bins Are Best Idea

Dear Sir,  
In reply to Alan Snowball's letter on wheelie bins. I think they are a good idea. All you need to do is spend 5 minutes putting certain items into their bins and boxes and in return a weekly collection is unnecessary as the grey general bin will not be as full. The answer to storing rotting food too long is to compost it or don't prepare as much food. I never put food in bins and find the compost does wonders for garden plants. Darlington still use bags, but I know residents hate that system as it attracts rats, birds, mice who bite through the bags to get food and rubbish is strewn all over. The Council is to be congratulated for introducing this new system.  
**Alan Collins**

**P.A.C.T. Meeting**

*Police And Community Together*



PC 1452 Alan Thompson will be holding a PACT Meeting at Neville Parade Church on Thur 22/03/2012 from 6-30pm to 7-30pm. Representatives from Great Aycliffe Town Council, County Councillors & Livin have been invited to attend. Everyone welcome. Please come along and meet your Community Police and Civic Representatives to voice any concerns you may have and get updates on current issues.

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**Thursday - Steak Night**

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**WHAT'S ON AT THE GEORGE & DRAGON**

**Saturday 17th March - St Patricks Night**

*In aid of St Teresa's Hospice*

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**MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY LUNCH**

*Bookings now being taken for three course Sunday lunch*

**£20.00 per person - £10.00 for OAP/Child**



## POOR TURNOUT AT PUBLIC MEETING

The Public Meeting called by Great Aycliffe Residents Association to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan for the town was poorly attended.

Chairman Syd Howarth expressed his disappointment that despite the publicity given to the meeting only a small number showed interest.

He thought it indicated the importance of the subject had not filtered through and more effort is needed to get people involved in shaping the future of our town.

John Clare, Deputy Leader of the Town Council who had studied the topic in detail, gave a detailed summary of the plan and how it will affect the lives of residents and their

families over the next 25 years. The Town Council is to lead a consultation towards a referendum and employ an officer to take charge of preparing the plan to present to the County Council.

The end report will affect the development of Great Aycliffe and what is agreed will determine the town's future economy, industry planning, environment, commerce, housing, schools etc and it is in the interests of all to have their say.

After answering some pointed questions John Clare was thanked by the Chairman for a very informative address. He also thanked Fr. Campion and members of St. Mary's for the use of their church.



As part of work experience Greenfield Creative & Media Diploma students were given a brief to promote the school's new radio station. We were given instructions on how to use the equipment, and the name of the radio station, "Radio 4 Success". In just a week we had to come up with a slogan, flyers, posters and a campaign to launch it.

For research, we had the opportunity to visit TFM Radio in Stockton. There we learnt about different job roles in radio and how radio is funded. We also had the opportunity to interview Richard Kell and one of the presenters, Scott Makin. From this we learnt ideas for our radio station, such as audience involvement.

Our first show will be airing at break time in the dinner hall on Monday and will be played every day next week. Each day will be different and each member of the diploma group will have their own show. If you want to be a part of this exciting new project then register your interest on the radio section of Moodle or visit us outside the hall on Tuesday 13th March lunchtime to sign up for our crash course in radio presenting. Radio 4 Success supports your right to a voice (article 12 UNCRC). Say Yes!

## ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL EXPLORES BUSINESS WORLD

The "Believe and Achieve" Day began with an opening ceremony to which all the businesses involved, parents, governors and carers were invited. Mark Erndon from Expo Chef and Dave Spensely provided everyone with a short, light hearted quiz about people who have been inspirational in their lives- despite being told they wouldn't succeed.

St Francis' School wants to encourage every child to "Believe and Achieve" in everything that they do- the day was a way of helping them and their parents and carers see the opportunities that could be open to them in the future. We opened our doors to employers from around the region today.

Children and their families visited 14 employers over the course of the day, and by lunch time many children were already beginning to realise that there are many opportunities in the world for them. Archy Pennington could not contain himself by lunchtime declaring to everyone "I have loved everything and think I would be happy working for any of the companies. But my favourite is Stillers. I love trucks and engines and would love to fix the trucks and calculate the mpg of the different vehicles to make them money."

Latana Wootton finished the day saying "I



have learnt lots of new skills about different workplaces and it has been a really good day."

Geoff Nicholson attended the event to teach children about empowering themselves to achieve. He is an entrepreneur and has his own international life coaching company. "Today has been absolutely fantastic, it has been brilliant, the children have been really involved and have really been getting into the theme of 'Believe and Achieve.' It's great to get the opportunity to teach the children these skills and to help them believe in their own ability for the future."

Paul Stiller added "We've had a great time, it's actually the first time we have ever taken part in something like this but I have been very surprised at the response from the children and how well informed they are. They have obviously done quite a bit of research on my company. I have tried this morning to impress upon the children the importance of teamwork in business and working well with others to form a good company. I think the children have responded very well to that."

We would like to thank: Lindy Jazz, Expochef, Paul Stiller Transport, Glaxo Smith Kline, Procter and Gamble, Dog's Trust, Carolyn's Mobile Beauty, Greggs, Dickinson Dees, BroadMedia Technology, SERCO, Aycliffe Fabrication, Hayes Travel, Geoff Nicholson and PCSO Mike Welch for their time and support.

We could not have made this possible without their help and your enthusiasm and support. It is a pleasure to work in such a forward looking, forward thinking inspirational school- same time same place next year? All the firms are keen to repeat the experience!



## Fun Day of Maths



On Wednesday 7th March, Maths was the buzz word at Stephenson Way Community Primary School. Why? Because they were competing in an international event – World Maths Day.

The event involved 5.5 million students from over 200 countries and territories. It was a global challenge to get all students excited about learning and to give the top children in each school an opportunity to see how they measure up against the best. The children answered

quick fire mental arithmetic questions trying to beat up to 3 other children selected randomly from anywhere in the world. In total, the school answered 10,652 questions correctly during the day.

Top scorers in each age category were: 4- 7 year olds - Katie Kitching scoring 498; 8 – 10 Katie Wilson an amazing 927 correct answers and 11 – 13 age category winner was Megan Austin with 657 correct answers! It was a fun day of Maths for everyone

## PCP Green Award

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) are celebrating achieving the prestigious international standard for Environmental Management Systems, Environmental Quality Standard ISO 14001.

This is the world's most recognised standard and the PCP has satisfied inspectors that it minimises the harmful environmental effects of its activities and continually improves its environmental performance.

Commenting on the award, PCP's Chief Executive Jane Hartley, said "We are delighted to have achieved ISO 14001 accreditation. The PCP has always maintained high quality standards and procedures and with an increasing number of commissioning bodies demanding a sustainable approach to the environment, ISO 14001 gives a very visible sign of PCP's

ongoing commitment to environmental best practice. The ISO 14001 forms a part of PCP's recently established Environmental Management System, which helps us identify our environmental impact and take action to improve our performance.

Certification has also encouraged staff and volunteers to actively get involved in green issues. Such as reducing business mileage by walking rather than using cars or public transport and cutting paper, gas and electricity usage."

The achievement demonstrates PCP's commitment to identifying activities that impact on the environment, understanding relevant environmental laws and setting objectives for continual improvement. To find out more visit [www.pcp.uk.net](http://www.pcp.uk.net) and click on the 'Leading on Quality' page or telephone: 321234.



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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

### Planning Sub-Committee Meeting

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

**WEDNESDAY, 28th MARCH 2012**  
**at 4.00p.m.**

#### QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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



## CAB - Desperately Seeking Volunteers

Do you have spare time on your hands? Looking for work but nothing is available? Or have you taken retirement and are wondering what to do with your skills?

Would you like to gain new skills, meet people and make a difference to their lives? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you! Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau will be starting a new intake of volunteers in April to train as gateway assessors as well as full advisers - There are so many positives to volunteering with CAB:

- It is an ideal stepping stone if you want to develop new skills or improve your employability chances

- It's also great if you have retired and just want to be useful in your local community

- Our training is widely recognised as being of high quality

- Once trained and actively seeking work, the majority of advisers find paid work within 12 months in a similar field

- Volunteering improves wellbeing! It keeps your mind active; gives you a purpose; develops confidence; a greater understanding of social conscience; and opens your eyes to real problems of real people in your community

• Volunteering helps you to feel good about yourself We have a number of opportunities available from advisers who covers the full breadth of topics to gateway assessors who don't need to be advice trained but need to be comfortable using a telephone and will triage clients ringing in to our advice line.

So if you are available for 2 half days a week, are reliable, approachable and have good communication skills we will provide all the training you need, cover your travel expenses and provide you with a fantastic experience.

Please contact Sandra Richardson on 01388 825403 or Sandra@cab-sedgefield.co.uk for an application form.

We hope to hear from you soon!

## SONG & WORSHIP

A Song & Mission Workshop will be held at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Saturday 17th March at 3pm. Tracy Williamson leads the workshop entitled "Listening to God". Tickets are £5. Then at 7pm Marilyn Baker is "In Concert" Tickets £5. A warm welcome awaits you.

## Obituary



**ALAN HOPPER**  
M.B.E.

We regret to record the death of Alan Hopper MBE on 3rd March 2012 at the age of 86. Alan and his wife Florence were married for 63 years and lived in Newton Aycliffe for over 30 years.

Alan served in the Fleet Air Arm during the Second World War as a Rear Gunner. After leaving H. M. Forces he joined the Fire Service working in all parts of the County, and retired with the rank of Deputy Divisional Commander.

After leaving the Fire Brigade Alan moved into industry where he was employed by Norsk Hydro as Chief Fire Officer.

He was elected the National Chairman of the British Fire Service Association and was awarded the M.B.E. in 1998. Alan and Florence have a Son John and a Daughter Janet. He will be sorely missed by all his family and his many friends.

## Aycliffe Needs a Neighbourhood Plan

### A Summary of Presentation to Great Aycliffe Residents' Association

Shortly (the government is aiming for April 2012), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will replace 1500 pages of planning laws with 50 pages of general guidelines. There will still be planning restrictions, but these will not be based on Planning Law, but on the statements in the 'Local Plan' issued by the County Council. If there is no Plan, the draft NPPF instructs local planning authorities that they must grant permission to developments whenever a plan is 'absent, silent, indeterminate, or where relevant policies are out-of-date.'

Durham County Council is proposing to finalise its Local Plan at the end of 2014 - so even if the government declares a substantial transition period, this raises the nightmare possibility of an extended period where planning in County Durham is a 'free-for-all'. Thus it is essential that we put in place as soon as possible a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which will set the parameters for planning decisions in Aycliffe.

The Neighbourhood Plan is not going to be a magic wand to reinvigorate the Town Centre, upgrade the C35, or provide bungalows for old people etc. All these things need massive investment, and the Neighbourhood Plan does not have any resources attached; it is not a mechanism

of development.

Neither is it (as Livin's 'Community Plan' or the Town Council's 'Parish Plan') a mechanism of social engineering - it is not a blueprint to reduce crime, organise clubs or help people with their finances.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be a 'planning plan', setting the parameters for geographical and economic development, and dealing with matters such as housing, business land, community buildings, open spaces, building design etc.

It will have to be generally 'in accord' with the Durham County Local Plan but will by no means be enslaved to it - a Neighbourhood Plan has the power, for example, to assign extra land for housing or industry.

Also, it will have to acknowledge the general principle of the NPPF's 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', but that does not mean it will just have to say 'Yes' to everything. Rather it will help ensure, if and when developments happen, that those developments happen where, and in a way that, we want them.

It will probably include:

**The designation of areas of 'Community land' not-for-development.**

**Design statements for new and existing housing areas.**

**An open brief for areas where we want development**

(e.g. on the industrial estate/ social housing/ old people's developments).

It might include 'Neighbourhood Development Orders' which explicitly give permission to certain kinds of development in certain locations, and also a 'Community Right to Build' - where the Town Council could actively work with providers to supply new housing.

At the moment, the Town Council waits upon the government 'toolbox' which will provide guidance as to how to go about writing a Neighbourhood Plan. Shortly after the Town Council's AGM, we intend to appoint a Neighbourhood Plan officer, who will engage proactively with all sides of the community - including not only residents' groups, but also the County Council, landowners, businessmen and interested parties etc. - on a number of themes, such as Housing, Employment, Retail, Public open space and Design.

This period of engagement will lead to a draft Neighbourhood Plan, which in its turn will be the subject of further discussion. Any Plan to come out of this process will then be subjected to a sustainability appraisal, signed off by DCC, validated by an independent assessor, and put to a community referendum.

The Town Council will shortly be seeking your

views and input for YOUR Neighbourhood Plan. As I said to the GARA AGM, fate has laid this opportunity on our doorstep and we need to step up and do our duty.

We have the opportunity to define and guide how our town will develop, in ways which WE want, so that - when we are long gone - our children and grandchildren will enjoy the town they live in.

If you want to find out more about Neighbourhood Plans, there is a good guide at <http://bit.ly/wxiE5u>

## Cut Fuel Duty on Air Ambulance

Dear Sir,

Please may I bring to your readers attention a petition to encourage the Government to exempt Air Ambulance services from duty on the fuel they use, in the same way as the Lifeboats (RNLI) are exempt.

If we gain 100,000 signatures, Parliament is duty bound to debate the issue - currently we have over 32,000 signatures.

Thank you for your support for this magnificent volunteer funded service. <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/29349>

Please pass on to all of your friends and contacts list The Air Ambulance Service

## From the 12th March, Neville Pharmacy is changing and we are opening a new pharmacy at Bewick Crescent



### YOU CAN

- Have your Prescriptions collected and dispensed
- Have your Prescriptions dispensed while you wait
- Ask your Pharmacist for advice
- Check your Blood Pressure here
- Have your Smoking Cessation vouchers redeemed here
- Get Emergency Hormonal Contraception here
- Use the "Care at the Chemist" Scheme here
- Buy your P Medicines and Over the Counter Medicines here



### YOU CAN

- Buy P Medicines and Over the Counter Medicines
- Buy all our other Products
- Ask your Pharmacist for advice
- Check your Blood Pressure here
- Order Repeat Prescriptions

### YOU CAN'T

- Walk in and Wait for a Prescription to be dispensed
- Get your Smoking Cessation Voucher redeemed
- Use the "Care at the Chemist" Scheme

**The Prescription Collection and Delivery Service will continue as Normal**  
**Please Contact us with any queries on 01325 312018**



**SPECIAL  
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Anyone interested in a TA career with 102 Battalion REME please ring Captain Newton on 01325 375001 or call into the TA Centre, Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe.

These are just a few reasons that myself and I'm sure our

Anne Kemp

Police are keen to speak to any witnesses and also trace two men who were seen acting suspiciously around the area at the time. The location is next to an open green area where it is believed that people walk dogs and will regularly pass by. Anyone with information is asked to ring 101 and ask for the local priority crime team at Bishop Auckland Police Station.

**Julie Thorne**

**FREE ESTIMATES** **INSURANCE QUOTES**

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# MAKE ME AN OFFER

For this month only, the properties shown below are open to offers, ring Carrie on 01325 311737 to make your offer.

 <p><b>Beechfield Newton Aycliffe</b></p> <p>Four bedrooms, finished garage, driveway, WC, kitchen/dining room, lounge, garage, storage units &amp; off road parking spaces, DO and SOA for sale.</p>	 <p><b>Breelick Crescent Newton Aycliffe</b></p> <p>An extended four bedroom and bathroom house, fitted kitchen/diner, modern bathroom/WC, small landscaped lawn.</p>	 <p><b>Chapman Close Newton Aycliffe</b></p> <p>Two bedrooms and terrace, owner at a price to sell quickly, new garage, fitted kitchen/dining room, utility, bathroom, DO &amp; OH.</p>	 <p><b>Emerson Way Newton Aycliffe</b></p> <p>3 bedrooms, terrace, double garage, SOA, modern garden to rear, separate WC. Fully refurbished.</p>	 <p><b>Guthrum Place Newton Aycliffe</b></p> <p>3 bedrooms and SOA living in a modern development in Newton Aycliffe. Fitted kitchen, DO, SOA and new garden. Ideal for rental.</p>
 <p><b>Karlens Close Woodham Village</b></p> <p>Extended 4 bedrooms detached, left conversion, luxury ensuite, fitted kitchen, ample storage, garage &amp; more.</p>	 <p>Three bedroom house built, fitted kitchen, DO, SOA, new garage, well maintained lawn ready for show!</p>	 <p>3 bedroom house property, garage, modern fitted kitchen/diner, garage, DO, very maintenance gardens.</p>	 <p>Well presented improved three bed end terrace house. Modern fitted kitchen, SOA, parking, bathroom, large garden, garage, contemporary, ideal family home.</p>	 <p>2 or 3 bed semi, off street bus stop, kitchen/WC, 3 beds, a family bathroom, front and rear garden, parking, flower borders and stone path.</p>
<p><b>move on homes</b></p> <p>Newton Press Buildings   St. Catharine's Way Newton Aycliffe   Co. Durham   DL8 8EQ</p> <p><b>Tel: 01325 311737</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.moveonhomes.co.uk">www.moveonhomes.co.uk</a></p>				



# COUNCILLOR'S CLUB SCOOPS COUNTY'S TOP AWARD



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All Fully Fitted including Valve and Balance

An award for the top intergenerational project Award across County Durham Age Concern has been presented to Councillor Dorothy Bowman for the work she does with the "New Friends New Places Club" in Newton Aycliffe. The group meets regularly and interacts with students and pupils from local schools in an effort to help older residents become more confident with young people, and to understand them better. It also helps the younger generation get to know older people and appreciate the struggles they face on a daily basis. New Friends New Places is a successful group running for three years and they are hoping to open another group in School Aycliffe. At present they meet every Tuesday from 2pm until 4pm at the Navy Club Burnhill Way and new members are always welcome. The club aims to give senior citizens or anyone the opportunity to socialise, go on outings and meet new people and friends. The club provides entertainment, armchair aerobics and interesting speakers etc. Admission is just £1 and includes a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit. Don't sit at home all alone come and join us. For details ring Dorothy Bowman 01325 308094.

# Ramseys Garage Celebrate 10,000th Customer



Ramseys Garage celebrated a recent milestone during March, enjoying the visit of their 10,000 customer since opening their doors back in 1993. A delighted Hannah Rollo took delivery of her new vehicle from Ramseys Garage accompanied by father Dane Rollo. Ian Ramsey, General manager, said, "it was especially nice as Hannah's family have also been coming to Ramseys to buy their cars for many years, in fact this is the 12th car sold and serviced to the Rollo family."

Ramseys are one of the few family run car dealerships who haven't been swallowed up by large plc's. 'We've always remained true to our roots serving the local community', continued Ian. 'The reason why so many of our customers are referred by friends and family, is because we try to make car buying a pleasure and easy, plus, we make every effort to look after all the tiny details that can make such a big difference.' Ramseys really are a family business in the truest sense of the word, with Gillian Ramsey, running the behind-the-scenes administration and son Elliot Ramsey, heading the aftersales department covering, service, MOT and body-repairs. "We're good listeners and we try and take the time to identify what the customer is really saying, said Elliot. We've found customers don't just buy cars and services, they buy into good feelings, respect and solutions to problems. We understand the importance of showing our appreciation to every single

customer who walks through the door, and that's never changed since we first set up in business.' Gillian Ramsey finished by saying, 'Being honest and upfront goes a long way. I often try reversing roles to think how I would feel or react to a situation. Being able to admit when a problem occurs, and just as important, apologising when something goes wrong. Ramseys Garage are looking forward to their next 10,000 customer.

# Students Benefit from Careers Information

Last month marked the start of National Apprenticeship week and at Woodham Community Technology College this was celebrated in style. Year 11 students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from local business to find out more about how to secure an apprenticeship within those companies.

In the current economic climate, I have seen more and more students requesting information about apprenticeships and this is an area in which we are able to provide support at Woodham from both internal and external sources,' said Mrs McGinney, coordinator of the programme.

The information and guidance on apprenticeships forms part of a rigorous and effective Careers Education programme in which the school works very closely with local education and training providers to ensure that each student is able to make informed decisions about their post-16 steps.

Interviews for post-16 placements often take place in school and so far this year 100% of those students interviewed in school have been successful in gaining a place on their chosen course.



# Property Management North East

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## Harebell Meadows Woodham Village

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

## LANDLORDS

We urgently require quality, modernised 3-4 bedroomed houses in Newton Aycliffe & Woodham for clients on our mailing list.

Free rental appraisal without obligation from the ARLA licensed agent



## Hawkshead Place Newton Aycliffe

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



## Brook Close Woodham Village

Modern 2 bedroom detached house, unfurnished with carpets & curtains. Lounge, kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms, bathroom/conservatory with overhead shower. Gas CH, pleasant gardens front & back, parking. Rent £495 pcm.



## Alfrid Place Newton Aycliffe

4 bedroomed end terrace/ link house, unfurnished with carpets & curtains. Modern fitted kitchen, lounge & dining area, 2 double & 2 single bedrooms, main bathroom with overhead shower, downstairs WC. Gas CH, front garden. Rent £460 pcm



## Stainforth Close Newton Aycliffe

2 bedroomed 3rd & 4th floor maisonette, fully furnished to good standard. Hall, fitted kitchen, lounge/diner joined by archway, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas air CH, roof terrace/balcony, parking. Rent £460 pcm

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# RED DAY FOR HEART CHARITY

Friday 24th February marked the day of wearing red and having fun, all the aid of raising money for the British Heart Foundation (OUR RED HOUSE CHARITY). Hopefully in tutors pupils prepared themselves for the day researching the wonderful work the charity does for people all over the country. By wearing red we symbolised the heart of the work the charity and by doing so managed to



raise £569.78. On top of that fantastic amount 3 pupils from BLUE house held a 'sponge the teacher'

event during their lunchtime. Red house would like to give special thank you to Sophie Lenton, Mason Longstaff and Danielle Johnson for giving up their time to organise and plan such an exciting event. Many pupils gathered to donate money to sponge Mr Moralee, Miss Silverwood, Miss Thurley and Mr Tobin and in doing so managed to raise an EXTRA £12.56. Throughout the day Miss Curran, Victoria Pinner, Bethany Howe, Samantha Ashcroft (Red House Captain) and Anna Farrer also promoted a wear red sweepstake with a chocolate hamper to be won! Thank you to all pupils who participated and managed to raise ANOTHER £21.68. The winner of the lucky hamper was Daniel Arrowsmith in Year 8 who guessed 'Earmuffs' correctly. A big thank you to ALL

GREENFIELD pupils on Friday our grand total going to BHF is £604.02, helping the charity to continue with pioneering work.

# TOWN CLOCK FALTERS AFTER 50 YEARS

Newton News has received a few enquiries about the Town Centre Clock which is not working. We spoke to Town



Centre Manager Bryan Haldane who provided the following information.

"The clock was taken out of commission due to one of the hands being severely corroded. Please bear in mind the clock has been in daily use since the opening of the building by H.M. The Queen in 1962 - some 50 years.

The clock has been inspected and various sections taken away for examination and the preparation of a report outlining the various options we must take to put the clock back into use.

I hope to have a decision on this relatively soon and wish to assure all residents that the clock will be repaired as soon as possible."

Correspondents will gather from this report that the Town Council is not responsible for the upkeep of the clock. The future of the clock is assured and will feature in the redevelopment of the town centre. Initially it will be taken down, but there are plans to place it elsewhere, details of which have not yet been decided.

# Suspicion on Golf Club Development

Sir, I read with mild amusement the final paragraph re golf course development approval in your report of 9th March, namely that houses will be built first to provide the necessary funds for the planned improvements.

I have no opinion one way or other on the Golf Club development but how often over the years have I seen large developers use this ploy: promise the world, build what is profitable to them and then find a reason - economic downturn, financial problems, not as much profit as expected to continue etc - not to follow through on their "improvement" promises!

I have to ask what legally binding guarantees have the local planning committee secured to ensure that all the promised improvements will be actioned on completion of the housing build?

Surely the phasing of house build and improvements would have been more beneficial in ensuring that the community get the promised changes?

We have seen developers do this to councils nationwide and the councillors never seem to learn. I hope I am wrong, but the cynic in me suspects I will be writing "I told you so" in a few years time.

Adrian Dart

# Who Should be Ashamed?

Dear Sir, I noted the very misguided and inaccurate criticisms in the letter from Jed Hillary whom I defeated in an election in 2007. He said I should hang my head in shame.

If I was connected with the Labour Party I would be quite justified in hanging my head in shame, supporting an MP who head-butted another MP in the House of Commons and yet only fined £3,000 while refusing to apologise for his behaviour.

What about supporting those 'pigs in the trough' MP's claiming expenses? Both these items are more despicable than anything Jed cares to blindly throw in my direction. He also claims Labour Councillors have no influence on the actions of the Government. Why then did Labour Councillors go to the House of Commons last year over the proposed Wind Farm? Was it purely as a photo opportunity to impress the electorate just how opposed they are to this when in reality they have no influence whatsoever?

Seems like a waste of money to me! Cllr Paul Ducker (Leader - Great Aycliffe Independents Party)

# Invitation to Women

Dear Sir, May I extend an invitation to every woman in the Aycliffe Area? How much do you spend on a good night out? Did you know that you can spend an evening with the WI for just £2.50? Simply pay us a visit and see if you like us. We have a different speaker each month and fun challenges for members to try. So why not come and join us for a couple of hours once a month. Our next meeting is on March 28th when Edna Oswald, a W.I. craft tutor, will talk about how her life was transformed through her work with the WI. The meeting begins at 7.30pm and closes at 9.45pm. If you need more details, please give me, Kathy Round, a call on 01325 315732

# Teenage Ballet Dancer in "Swan Lake"

The dreams of Beth Rodgers from Newton Aycliffe (13) have come true. The talented young dancer was selected at an audition in 2011 from over 200 young hopefuls. She will appear in the electrifying new adaptation of Swan Lake at the Mill Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, for 3 performances from 16 - 17th April 2012.

The young dancers in the cast will dance alongside EYB's stunning international principal artistes in a professional production. Beth, a student at Greenfield, is experiencing the life of a professional ballet dancer - working at John Spence School in Tynemouth in an 11-day intensive rehearsal process.

Company Manager, Ben Garner, says: "Working with English Youth Ballet will be one of the highlights of these talented young dancer's careers, to date.

The audiences watching EYB are in for a unique and exciting experience too. They will be seeing both top



international principal artistes and the best up-and-coming young talent from their region - sharing the stage."

**URGENT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
**URGENT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**  
**URGENT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The Council intend to act on the 7 days from the date of this notice to make an order under the provisions of Section 34 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily close in pedestrian traffic a 47 metres length of road between Elsworth Road and Newburn Road, Newton Aycliffe, and a further 47 metres length of road between the said Elsworth Road and Newburn Road, Newton Aycliffe.

The temporary closure of the temporary pedestrian closure will be in 6 metres and temporary from 10.4.12 and for the duration of the water main replacement works, anticipated to be 3 weeks. However, the temporary closure, unless necessary, should not be necessary on dates and times other than those set out above and where this occurs, closure and/or duration will be agreed accordingly.

An alternative route will be available in pedestrian traffic via other streets in the area.

Dated 16 March 2012

Cllr John Longbottom  
 Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
 Council Hall, Durham Street, Newton



**WOODHAM**  
*Golf & Country Club*

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 Website: www.woodhamgolfandcountryclub.co.uk

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## ID4U

There will be an ID4U event on Saturday 31st March 2012 time 12:30-15:30 at unit 11 next door to Coffee Pronto in Newton Aycliffe Town Centre.

ID4U is a scheme which is ideal for young people who need proof of identification but don't want to carry valuable proof such as a passport or birth certificate. ID4U is also recognised by many retailers which will help younger looking people purchasing products. Application forms will be available at Newton Aycliffe Police Station, Unit 23, Parsons Court from Wednesday 14th of March.

## NEWTONIANS SHOULD BE HOUSED IN THEIR OWN TOWN

Dear Sir,  
Now that D.C.C. Planning Committee have catered for the needs of a wealthy few to build houses on Woodham Golf Course; could, the Mums, Dads, Grans and Grandads of Great Aycliffe, have the social housing needs of their children catered for too?

Tales abound of children and grandchildren, born, educated in Aycliffe, keen

to create new life in their home-town, being cast out to seek accommodation elsewhere. Anywhere but Aycliffe! We hear of 'Higher Bidders' from anywhere else taking Aycliffe housing we were once led to believe would provide for the life-blood of Great Aycliffe, our children and grandchildren.

Being born, raised and educated in Aycliffe with extended family support, apparently counts for nothing against 'Higher Bidders' from anywhere else for Aycliffe houses. Young Newtonians forced into Chilton, Shildon, Darlington, wherever, are classed as 'Adequately Housed', creating opportunities for the bidders from elsewhere to take over even more of Aycliffe's Social Housing. This issue cries out for a Public Hearing. But who cares, apart from those suffering silently elsewhere? Where are those appointed to Housing Boards to represent Local Housing Needs? Where are the 'People's Champions' we were promised for Aycliffe?

This issue needs addressing with as much urgency as the needs of the wealthy were in Woodham. Aycliffe's Social Housing should meet Local Needs as was promised at 'Transfer Time'. But WHO CARES? And what a disgraceful let-down for Aycliffe children!

Don Fraser, Woodham  
**Ed: This is an issue Great Aycliffe Residents Association is about to tackle. The current policy of bidding for rented properties takes no account of residential history and splits families. Some priority should be given to people born in the town who want to live near their family.**

## Cycle into Spring with the PCP Centre



The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) have been delivering free cycling sessions on a Monday for some time now, in partnership with the NHS Get Active team.

Due to its popularity, and to make it more convenient for everybody to access, the PCP and Get Active team have organised an additional session on a Wednesday evening from Centre.

Intermediate to Advanced Rides 6- 8pm. Starting from 11 April. Participants need to be competent to ride on roads and have a good fitness level as the rides can be between 15 - 20+ miles long. If you aren't confident that you are at this level yet you can go along to the Monday morning ride also from the Pioneering Care Centre from 10 - 11.30am.

New participants are asked to arrive approximately 15 minutes before start time to complete a health

questionnaire. Cycles and helmets are provided.

The cycling sessions aim to give people the skills and confidence to get out on their bikes more. They are ideal for young people wanting to get to school safely, parents who want to help their kids use their bikes safely, people looking for a way to stay fit that can be built into a busy schedule and older people who want a gentle exercise to stay healthy.

For further information please contact the Centre, tel: 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net

Web: www.pcp.uk.net  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PioneeringCare  
For information on other cycle sessions across County Durham, including a Saturday morning family session from Coxhoe Leisure Centre contact Steven Hart who co-ordinates the NHS Get Active team cycling within Co Durham on 0191 569 2847.

## No Decision Yet on Aycliffe Police Station

Durham County Constabulary were represented at the Town Council Meeting last week to update Councillors on the ongoing survey of policing in Newton Aycliffe Police Authority Chairman Peter Thompson said no decision had been made on replacing our Police Station.

It was clear from responses from the general public that the temporary station on the Business Park was too far away, but crime figures show a reduction across the board of criminal offences in Newton Aycliffe which enjoys one of the lowest rates in the county.

The police contact points in

the town have been well used and 75% say they provide easy access and brought police officers closer to the community.

PACT Meetings were useful, but suffered from low turnout, but the police will persevere, hoping residents would come to rely on this means of contact. Following the retirement of Andy Neill new Neighbourhood Inspector, Mark Hall had been appointed who is fully committed to continuing the good work against crime in Newton Aycliffe.

## Local Artist Starts Own Business

Dan Walls of Kemble Green has started his own art business, specialising in wall art and murals for bedrooms etc. Dan a former Woodham student has always loved art and after gaining a degree and teaching for two years is now to be his own boss.

He is also serving an apprenticeship, part-time as a tattooist and enjoys professional photography specialising in weddings.

Dan has already completed numerous commissions in Aycliffe including specialist art on bedroom walls for teenagers. He recently created a David Hamilton mural on a racing fan's bedroom wall.

He loves to work on large walls in Youth and Community Centres and says his work can brighten up Care Homes and business premises.

Dan owes a lot to the Princes Trust who gave him a start and he looks forward to seeing his work on display in Newton Aycliffe.

Dan can be contacted on 316752 or 0797 4602803  
Danwallsart@hotmail.co.uk



## Criticism of Councillor Ignored!

Dear Sir,  
I have so far ignored criticism in Newton News regarding my attendance at Town Council meetings as I attend all meetings where I am expected to be present!

I have better things to do than go to meetings where I am not allowed to vote, contribute to discussion or speak. I do however read the minutes from these meetings so am fully aware of what is happening.

Is being a good councillor one who attends meetings that they need not? Is being a good Councillor one who makes themselves available 24/7 which I am?

I have never seen Wendy Hillary at any Council meeting. I don't recall her standing out in freezing cold weather fighting against Post Office closures. I don't recall her being at the council meeting when I argued against moving MIND from St. Oswald's Park.

I wonder if she is the lady who was at the meeting on 7th March, putting herself forward for the vacancy on the Town Council for the Shafto/St. Mary's Ward? I am aware she is related to a Labour councillor and if her way to get votes is to criticise Independent Councillors then good luck! She will do well in the Labour Party!

I will not reply to anyone else who wants to join in this as I'm not interested. I was voted in to represent the public and I do not really care what other Councillors or their relatives think of me! I am here for the public!  
Councillor Irene Hewitson

### Harvest Christian Centre



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## Situations VACANT

### Customer Support Officer



A vacancy has arisen within an educational awarding body based in Aycliffe Business Park. The successful candidate will have level 2/3 qualifications in administration and customer service or equivalent and ideally qualifications in sales and marketing, a good working knowledge of Microsoft office and experience of using a CRM system.

The job will include building relationships with existing centres to support business development and growth in registration numbers, identifying opportunities for new products and services and dealing with new customer enquiries by telephone and email.

If you are friendly, pro-active, able to work on your initiative with a positive outlook then please forward your C.V. and letter explaining why you should be considered for the post to:

sarah.trouten@sfedy.co.uk

Closing date Friday 23rd March 2012

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## Ex Pro Coaches Aycliffe Junior Teams



NAJFC Development are proud to announce that ex pro Phil Brumwell has joined their coaching team. Phil who played 199 games for Darlington and also had 3 years at Blyth Spartans has just finished his playing career with Bishop Auckland. The development squad currently has 14 children who are in year 1 at school. We are looking to enter 2 teams in the summer league that is held at the Soccarena in Durham. We already have 3 qualified coaches working with the

squad and the arrival of Phil will be excellent for the kids involved. We are looking for more children that would be interested in training with us and who would like to play in the summer league. We train at Woodham College on Thursday night from 5.45 till 7.00pm. If your child is interested please call Adrian Dawson on 07970 455139. NAJFC runs teams from under 6 through to under 16. check our website [www.nascfc.co.uk](http://www.nascfc.co.uk)

## AYCLIFFE CRICKET CLUB SEEK VOLUNTEERS FOR SPRING CLEAN

Come and support Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club this NatWest CricketForce weekend. The Cricket Club is preparing for NatWest CricketForce 2012 and needs your help. Cricket clubs across England and Wales are calling on their local communities to pick up a paint brush and lend a hand rejuvenating their local club over the NatWest CricketForce weekend from 30th March to 1st April. Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club is expecting Newton Aycliffe volunteers, including players from NACC to help spruce up the club for the forthcoming season. There will be plenty of jobs to go round from Newton Aycliffe to Newton Aycliffe. The volunteer work planned for the weekend will give Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club a huge boost as without volunteers it would have cost a lot of money and a lot of

hours in time.. It's fantastic that Newton Aycliffe Cricket Club is taking part in NatWest CricketForce, we're all looking forward to working hard and welcoming new and old faces to the club to help us ensure our facilities are ready for the 2012 season." ECB Managing Director, Cricket Partnerships Mike Gatting, said: "NatWest CricketForce makes a real difference to clubs across the country. Year on year the generosity and commitment of local communities over the NatWest CricketForce weekend gives clubs a huge boost to improved facilities and prepare for the season ahead. "All players start their cricket careers at local clubs and good facilities and a fun environment have a huge influence on youngsters staying in cricket." Anyone wishing to attend Newton Aycliffe Cricket

Club over the NatWest CricketForce Weekend should contact Newton Aycliffe (Chris Palmer on 07837 078 158)

## Easter Fun at the Oak Leaf

Need something for the kids to do during the Easter Holidays? Oak Leaf Sports Complex is holding a number of courses in a range of activities for kids aged 8-15yrs:

**Activity Day's** Monday 2nd and Wednesday 11th April 9.30-3.30pm

**Crafty Kids** Tuesday 3rd & Thursday 12th April 9.30-11.30pm

**Dance Mats** Tuesday 3rd April 11.30-12.30pm

**Archery** Wednesday 4th at 9.30-11.30 and Tuesday 10th April 12.00-2.00pm

And for the little ones 4-7 years we are offering **Mini Activity Sessions** Thursday 5th and Friday 13th April 9.30-11.00pm

**Mini Dance Mats** Friday 13th April 11.30-12.30pm

If you would like any further details contact Reception on 01325-300600.

## Aycliffe FC to Appoint Corporate Fundraiser

### FIXTURES

Saturday March 17th: Penrith (A), 3pm  
Saturday March 24th: Spennymoor Town (H), 3pm  
Saturday March 31st: Whitley Bay (A), 3pm  
Saturday April 7th: Guisborough Town (H), 3pm  
Saturday April 14th: Tow Law (A), 3pm  
[www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk)

Newton Aycliffe FC are already beginning their preparations for the 2012-13 season by appointing a new commission-based corporate

fundraising role to boost club funds. The Northern League club are currently seventh in the Northern League first division in their inaugural top-flight campaign, and it looks like they'll achieve their ambition of a top-10 finish in what is only their third season in the Northern League, after winning the second division title last year.

But they have struggled to compete with neighbouring clubs, with running costs providing a big financial burden. Now they're looking to boost their revenue streams by appointing a new fundraiser, who will earn commission on corporate advertising and sponsorship sales. Chairman Gary Farley said: "We've been lucky in that we've had volunteers running the club up to now, so we haven't had to pay a penny to the guys who do all the hard work behind the scenes."

"But, as a committee, we recognise that if we want to be more competitive so we can maintain anything like a top-six position, we need someone to go out there and sell the club. "All our volunteers work for a living and are stretched enough as it is, so this is a real opportunity for someone, ideally from a sales or fundraising background, to help us and earn some money at the same time."

Those interested are asked to contact Aycliffe's sponsorship and advertising manager Barry Waters on 07864 718243, or email [barrywaters212@msn.com](mailto:barrywaters212@msn.com). Full remuneration details will be discussed during interviews.

Aycliffe's 11-match unbeaten run came crashing to an end with back-to-back defeats last week, slipping one place in the table. They lost 2-1 at South Shields during the week, followed by a 1-0 defeat at home to Dunston last Saturday, in front of a bumper 220 crowd at Moore Lane Park.

## Volunteers Wanted for Town Baseball Team

The Newton Aycliffe Spartans recruitment drive has been a great success and the club continues to welcome new players weekly. Equally as important is the Spartans drive to welcome people to the Spartans Family in an 'off-the-field' capacity.

The Spartans are currently looking for people who would like to get involved on the non-playing side. They are particularly keen to hear from individuals who could help out on home game days, which will be on various Sunday dates through the spring and summer. Spartans are particularly interested to hear from any individual who would be interested in becoming Club's Official Scorer and Statistician.

**SPARTANS 2012 SEASON SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED**  
The Spartans, who play in the Northern AA division, will play 30 regular season games with each home fixture encompassing two games. Spartans open their campaign on the 15th April 2012 (First Pitch 12pm) when they host the Manchester Torrent at Horndale Field in Newton Aycliffe.

### OTHER FIXTURES

22nd April	v	Sheffield Bladerunners
13th May	v	Oldham North Stars
10th June	v	Harrogate Tigers
1st July	v	Manchester Torrent
15th July	v	Sheffield Bladerunners
5th August	v	Oldham North Stars
To be arranged	v	Hull Scorpions

### SPARTANS LAUNCH SOFTBALL TEAM

Since the Spartans, formed a little over 9 months ago, the player recruitment has been a huge success attracting players from County Durham, Teesside and Tyneside. Now the club has decided to launch a Softball team in 2012. The Spartans will over the coming months develop the Softball team to complement the Baseball team. A Softball diamond will be put down at Horndale Field and training sessions will run alongside the Baseball sessions. The Spartans will be looking to enter one-off tournaments in 2012 with a view to joining the British Softball Federation in 2013.

For further details on the Spartans contact John Johnston, Team Manager on [john@newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk](mailto:john@newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk) or visit the team's website at [www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk](http://www.newtonaycliffespartans.co.uk)

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**APRIL 2012**

**Friday 6th April - The 80's Experience**  
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**Saturday 7th April - Disco through the Decades**  
Come and enjoy a night of music from the 60's all the way through to the 90's  
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £11.95 per person

**Sunday 8th April - Easter Sunday**  
Come and join us for our delicious Sunday Lunch in the Boyne Suite whilst listening to the music of our resident pianist. Children will receive a token gift from the Easter bunny.

**Friday 13th April - Caribbean Evening with Totally Tropical**  
A sensational Jamaican Beach Party Band performing songs from Peter Andre, Inner Circle, Eddie Grant, Shaggy, Kool & The Gang, Third World, 10CC, Pato Banton, Lou Bega and many more. Evening will have a Caribbean Themed Buffet, Prize for the best Hawaiian Shirt and Flower Garlands and Disco.  
Arrival 7.00pm, buffet served 7.30pm - £15.95 per person

**Friday 13th April - Night Fever at the 70's Disco**  
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £11.95 per person

**Saturday 14th April - The Brainstormer Murders**  
The ultimate in Murder Mystery entertainment, come and enjoy a thrilling evening of fun, intrigue and whodunnit. The evening is titled ALL LOCKED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO Join the cast of the popular TV prison drama Lock Down. As the evening progresses it's clear that some of the cast have more guilty secrets than the characters they portray and someone is heading for a life sentence. This evening will include a three course dinner and disco to finish. Arrive 7.00pm for dinner 7.30pm - £21.95 per person

Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite accompanied by music from our resident pianist.  
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# SAFETY CAROUSEL FOR SCHOOLS AT THE WORK PLACE



A Safety Carousel Workshop was held on Tuesday 13th March at 'The Work Place' a purpose built venue for education purposes. Interactive methods were used to

teach schoolchildren safety awareness.

The Workshop day is one of several running over nine weeks and employs the services of various agencies to deliver safety messages to all 9,000 Year Six primary school children in County Durham and Darlington. Newton News photographer caught Stephenson Way students at the end of one of their interactive sessions. The Safety Carousel is an important and very successful event, which not only educates all Year 6 children on how to keep safe, but through them the messages are relayed back into the home environment

contributing to a safer community for all. This is a vital piece of learning at Key Stage 2 which is hoped will help to safeguard them for the rest of their lives.

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**3 BEDROOM** Airtown Place, house to rent. GCH, £100 per week. Guarantor required. Tel 07780 333398

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# St John Coffee Morning

St John Ambulance is holding a Coffee Morning at Ingleton Village Hall on Saturday 31st March between 10am and 12 noon.

Admission £2 includes refreshments. There will be a cake stall, Tombola Stall and a Raffle.

All proceeds to go to the St John Eye Hospital Group in Jerusalem including the Eye Clinic in Gaza.

There has been an Eye Hospital in Jerusalem almost continuously since 1882 and demand for its services keeps rising. Last year over 107,000 patients were treated.

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# Talent Show at Sugar Hill



Sugar Hill pupils recently showcased a range of their musical and dancing talents in front of the rest of the school. Pupils who regularly work with music

teacher, John Melvin, gave performances of well-known songs including a wonderful rendition of Jessie J's song, Price Tag. Sugar Hill's group of talented dancers

demonstrated the rumba and the jive. There was also an impromptu performance from some children in class 9, who performed a rap that they had made up themselves accompanied by one of the guitarists from their class. The teachers at Sugar Hill are very proud of all the performers' outstanding efforts and achievements both inside and outside school.



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## Thank You

**BRENDA HUTCHISON** In all the excitement surrounding my retirement and 65th birthday I forgot to mention the most important person in my life, Rob, who is the biggest support and loving husband I could wish for. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me xxx

**ROSS AND LAUREN** would like to thank all their family and friends for helping celebrate their Engagement. Thank you Micky Richards for the great music, Aunty June for the beautiful cake and Carol for the great buffet. Also thank you for all the cards, gifts, money and vouchers that we received. We had a great night xxxx

## In Memoriam

**MICK BONAS** 21/03/1992. Our hearts still ache in sadness. Our silent tears still flow. For what it meant to lose you Dad. No one will ever know. Love you always Dad. Lee, Julie, Sarah and all the Family  
**FRANK REED** 17th March. Remembered this day and every day, by loving Wife Vera and all the family, near and far xxx

**ALLEN FRAZER** 18th March 1998. Every day in some small way, memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near, still missed, loved and always dear. Loved and remembered always from your loving Wife Ann and family

**ANTHONY MORRELL** 14th March 2011.. I had 27 years of knowing you, 25 years as your Wife. You gave me two beautiful children, I thought we were set for life. Then God came calling one fateful day and decided you had to go. My loving caring Husband, the best I'll ever know. It's been a year since you passed away. I love and miss you more each day. The day you left, you left a hole within my life, my heart and my soul. Your loving Wife, Kim

**ANTHONY MORRELL** We both thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We both thought about you yesterday and all the days before that too. We think of you in silence, but we often say your name. Because all we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Love and miss you Dad. Aimie and Leanne

**ANTHONY MORRELL** I ask my Mummy where you are, she says you're now a big bright star. So when it's dark I look and see, the brightest star watching over me, I wave my hand and say hello, I blow a kiss and watch it go, up in the sky to the Heavens above, to my lovely Grandad with all my love. Miss you Grandad. Love, Emma-Lee

## Congratulations

### Ian Culling



**Happy 40th Birthday Son.**  
Love always from Dad x

**Happy 40th Birthday** to a special Husband. Lots of love always, Alison xx

**Happy 40th Birthday** Daddy. Lots of hugs and kisses, Chloe xxx

**Happy 40th Birthday.** Love from Geoff and Pauline x



### Kevin and Vicki Barnes



**Congratulations on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary**  
18th March 2012

All our love, Marion, Andrew, Simon and Rhonda

**JAKE PRESCOTT** Happy 6th birthday. Lots of love, Grandma, Grandad, Kim, Adam and Eva xxxx

**JAKE PRESCOTT** Happy 6th birthday my little Angel. Lots of love, Mam and Luke xxx

**JAKE PRESCOTT** Happy birthday. Lots of love, Aunty Karen, Uncle Matt, James and Thomas xxx

**TOM ARMSTRONG** Congratulations on passing your driving test. Well done. Love from Mam, Trevor, Sarah, Ste, Keira and Tony xxx

**LEON TYLER O'REILLY.** Happy 6th birthday darling Leon. Pleased you had a great day. Love you all the world from Mammy xxx

**IMOGEN EVANS** "Yeehaw". Happy 6th birthday cowgirl. Hope you have a fantastic day. Lots of love, cuddles and kisses from Mammy and Sophie xxx

**IMOGEN EVANS** Happy 6th birthday darling. Hope you have a great day. Lots of love from Grandmam, Granda, Auntie Kelly and Honey xxx

**FLOWER** Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary David and Tracey. All our love and best wishes. Mam, Stacey-Leigh, Michael and Mitchell xxxx

### Look Who is 21! Anna Imiela-Iveson



**Happy Birthday Darling**  
16th March 2012

Lots of love from Mam

xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

**Happy 21st Sister**

Love from Andria, Paula, Kristyna, Andrew, Mark and your bestest Nephew Ryan xxxxxxxx

### Congratulations Lee



**Happy 40th Birthday**  
16th March 2012

Have a good one. Love from Gran, Mam, Dad and all your family

## Birthday Remembrance

### Brooke Louise Dawson



16th March 1980

In our hearts forever, especially today Brooke.  
You are only a heartbeat away.  
All our love, Mum, Geoff, Lewis and all the family xxx

### Jane Scott



18th March 1962  
to 12th July 2010

This year I can't send you a card or a gift so fine. So instead I will send you a special prayer, oh wonderful Mother of mine. I'll make this day a happy day and fill my thoughts with you. So Happy 50th Birthday Mam, and Happy Mother's Day too. In our hearts always, Adam, Jodie, Madelyn and Macie

**PAUL CLARK** 17th March 1957 to 8th July 2009. Treasured memories of someone so special. Behind my smile their lies a tear, for a Husband I lost, who I loved so dear. My heart still aches as I whisper low "Happy Birthday Paul, I miss you so". Love, always, Carole xxx

**PAUL CLARK** Missing you so much. You are always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. With all our love, Adam and Matthew xxx

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## LAUNCH OF NEW TRIATHLON CLUB FOR AYCLIFFE

Opportunities for local triathletes to train will receive a big boost as a dedicated new club is launched in Aycliffe at the end of this month.

Triathlon, which combines swimming, cycling and running, is attracting increasing interest as media coverage of this relatively young sport grows. A group of local triathletes are now launching a new club dedicated to the needs of local enthusiasts of the sport. Club founder, Andrew Sedgwick, comments:

"Over the last few months a number of local people have expressed interest in forming a local club, so we know there is real demand among local people. Support from a number of triathlon retailers and promoters means that we should be able to provide a strong programme of advice, support and structured training."

The Club plans to hold weekly swimming, cycling and running training sessions and work in partnership with Aycliffe Running Club, Sedgfield 75 Swimming Club and Durham County Council Sports Development staff to deliver the highest quality sessions possible.



The club will host its official launch night at Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Saturday 31st March from 6pm to 8pm where there will be a club presentation, displays of training equipment and information about the club training sessions. Those interested in attending the launch night or wanting more information about membership can email Vicky Howse at vickyhowse78@hotmail.com

## Kicking the Habit

The country's newest professional basketball team whose home is at Aycliffe Leisure Centre is helping smokers kick the habit.

Durham Wildcats joined the County Durham Tobacco Control Alliance in supporting national No Smoking Day on Wednesday, 14 March, the theme of which was 'take the leap'.

Dave Elderkin, Wildcats head coach, said: "Every time the Wildcats take to the basketball court they leap to score points but this week they are encouraging other people to take the leap to a healthier lifestyle."

"As professional sportsmen, the Wildcats are very much aware of the health risks associated with smoking so are very keen to show their support for No Smoking Day."

The County Durham and Darlington NHS Stop Smoking Service provides advice, support and encouragement to people who want to quit.

The service, which is

completely free of charge, has helped more than 50,000 County Durham residents stop smoking.

It offers one-to-one, group and drop-in sessions in community centres, libraries, pharmacies, GP surgeries, health clinics and many other venues across County Durham.

People who seek help through the Stop Smoking Service are four times more likely to succeed in stopping smoking than people who do not.

Cllr Lucy Hovvels, the member for safer and healthier communities, said: "No Smoking Day is a great opportunity to start your leap to becoming a non-smoker."

"The best way forward is to make contact with your local Stop Smoking Service in County Durham, for more choices, more flexibility and more ways to stop."

To find out about routes to quit contact County Durham and Darlington NHS Stop Smoking Service on 0800 0113 405.



## HOT CROSS BUN & COFFEE

Heighington WI will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Saturday 31st March, from 10.00am till 12noon, in Heighington Village Hall. Entrance £1.50 to include a Hot Cross Bun and Coffee or Tea. Accompanied children enter free of charge. There will be an Easter Egg Tombola, a Homemade Cake Stall and a Raffle.



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## NEW AYCLIFFE RUNNING GROUP

A new running initiative from Run England is coming to Newton Aycliffe this March.

The project is part of the Changing the Physical Activity Landscape (CPAL) programme, supported by NHS County Durham and Darlington and County Durham Sport, aiming to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in people aged 40-74 in County Durham through increased physical activity. The 'Run Aycliffe' group will have taster sessions on 23rd and 30 March 10.30 - 11.30 meeting at the Pioneering Care Centre.

Sarah Beadle, County Durham Activator for the project hopes it will encourage people to take up running. Sarah said 'There is no need to book, just turn up in comfortable clothing and footwear'. We really do want to encourage those who have never run before or used to run and would like to get back into exercise'.

Sarah is also looking for people who would be interested in becoming run group leaders and offers free training.

For further information on the Run Aycliffe group or becoming a group leader please contact Sarah Beadle: sbeadle@englandathletics.org or telephone 07921 060 301

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