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Hitachi are Coming! Great News for Aycliffe

A wave of optimism covers the town following the announcement that the Hitachi project can proceed. The 1st March will be remembered as the day Newton Aycliffe jumped into prominence and began a revival putting us where we belong.

The developers Merchant Place and our M.P. Phil Wilson are to be congratulated for their hard work in securing the contract for Hitachi.

The campaign began in 2009 with our MP Phil Wilson launching the bid and since then he has worked tirelessly to promote the project. His determination and leadership has paid off and he is reported to be jubilant. All his supporters here were celebrating this week and the news of Hitachi is on everyone's lips.

It will boost everything and we will see house prices rise and a flush of enquiries from companies wishing to take factory space near to their giant client.

The County Council will need to look seriously at our internal social infrastructure to accommodate the new workforce moving into the town.

The Town Centre



development will be even more important and the news may now bring interest

from those retail outlets who previously ignored Newton Aycliffe.

FREE ADVENTURE COURSE FOR YOUNG NEWTONIAN

Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club are offering a young person over 16 years old the opportunity to go on an exciting 4 day adventure course designed to give them leadership skills.

They will meet other youngsters from the north east, learn team work while enjoying outdoor and indoor activities.

The course to be held in the summer is funded by the Rotary Club and applicants should write in the first instance to David Hogg c/o Newton Press, St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe.

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Greenfield Students Learn to Market Tourist Attraction

Seventeen year 11 students from Greenfield Community Arts College have had the opportunity to carry out an innovative way of doing their work experience through the new vocational Diploma in Creative and Media studies, working alongside a variety of professionals from the Industry.

Nikki Locke, Arts Officer from Learning & Culture at Durham County Council designed the project in partnership with Durham Education Business Partnership with the aim to promote the DLI Museum and Art Gallery in Durham City as an attraction for 13-19 year olds living in the region.

Students researched other similar attractions in the North East and were offered first hand advice and tips from the front runners in the art gallery and museum industry, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead and the Discovery Museum in Newcastle.

Other advice for the campaign came from advertising executives, graphic and web designers and the Principal Marketing Officer for Libraries, Learning and Culture from Durham County Council.

Some impressive ideas were suggested by the group. One idea was to promote an art competition to local schools and colleges where they would be asked to create a piece of art inspired by the north east. The art would then be exhibited in the Gallery at the DLI and an awards/viewing evening organised for participants where a winner would be selected.

Other ideas included creating new marketing material aimed at the target audience using bright, edgy colours and changing the current website to make it more appealing to young people, using the gallery as a venue for local bands to play and the use of social networking; Twitter, Facebook, Bebo etc.

Students presented their ideas to a panel of Durham County Council staff and it is hoped that they will take some of the information forward when looking to promote the DLI in the future.

Through this applied learning work experience and supported by Cheryl Stirk from Durham Education Business Partnership, the students have been able to complete the 'Create a Campaign' unit of their qualification.



Photo: Durham County Council staff Nikki Locke, Arts Officer from Learning & Culture, Lawrence Pearson, Principal Marketing Officer from Adults, Wellbeing and Health and Emma Hamlett, DLI Museum Manager with the year 11 Creative and Media students.

Half Term at Greenfield Arts Centre

During February half term Greenfield Arts Centre held a successful activity week including; ceramics, steel pans, glee performing arts workshop, print workshops and glass workshops. There were over 50 children who attended these fabulous workshops!

We are holding similar arts activities to these and more at Easter. If you are interested in hearing more about our exciting courses call us on: 01325 379048 or Email: info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

The Steel Pan Reunion Gig is at Greenfield Arts Centre. Come along and join us for our Steel Pan Reunion Performance.

Anyone who has ever been involved with Steel Pans at Greenfield Arts Centre has been asked to perform on Wednesday 16th March 2011 from 6.00 to 6.30pm.

If you are interested in coming along to play then the rehearsal will take place on Monday 7th March anytime between 3.30 – 5.30pm. We look forward to seeing you.

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ABTA

Newton News Works

Newton News have received many letters from regular advertisers attesting to the popularity of this newspaper which is full of local news and events, the following is a sample of a letter from Brian Edwards a former Sub Editor of the Northern Echo:

Hi Syd

An important announcement to parents is attached, we thought Newton News would be the best way to convey this information if ok with you. Also, just to say Syd, thanks so much for all the work you have been doing for us recently, especially to such tight deadlines. Chris, Stu, Paul, yourself and your staff have been absolutely brilliant in producing The Voice, Woodham Learning materials, the design prints for the walls, letterhead etc, etc, etc - and it is very much appreciated by us all here at Woodham College. You have a great team at Newton Press, everything is done with a smile and good humour!! Thanks again Love from Marie Orwald x Woodham Community College

POLICE APPEAL FOR HELP ON BURGLARY AND BIKE THEFT

Our local Police are looking for help to find those responsible for a burglary at Moore Lane (Newton Aycliffe Football Club) whereby offenders have entered the club kitchen area and taken various foodstuff items (3 crates of Lucozade sport and crisps) and a Makita drill charger. It looks as though the offenders have entered via the A167 and left the same way. This incident happened overnight on 23rd February into the next day. 2 BMX bikes were stolen from Tesco's Park. This incident occurred at around 1810 hours on 24th February. There were 2 young male offenders, around 12-13 years,

of a slight build, one was wearing a grey hooded top. They drove from Tesco's park around to the front of Argos, along Greenwell Road, past the Legion and up Pease Way. The 2 bikes that were stolen were a BMX Harrow XO, mainly blue in colour with touches of black and white. It had slight scuffs on the plastic parts of the handlebars. The other was a BMX Harrow 200.2 which was black and white in colour. PC Paul Tingle can be contacted on the Durham Constabulary phone number on 0345 60 60 365 or by this email: Paul.Tingle@durham.pnn.police.uk

Aycliffe Wasn't on Hitachi's List

Dear Newton News readers,

This week, the Government made the long awaited decision on the future of the Intercity Express Programme and allowed the project to go ahead. For the North East it was a historic decision. The implications for the North East, and Newton Aycliffe in particular, are massive. The decision means Hitachi will now go ahead with constructing the company's train building facility in the town.

Hundreds of jobs will be created during the factory's construction period, followed by hundreds of direct jobs once the plant is completed and ready to build trains. Thousands of indirect jobs will be created in the supply chain. For every £1 of public investment there will be a £48 return. There is no public sector investment required until after the next election;

Hitachi will invest £90 million in a new factory. The new trains will replace the rolling stock on the east coast mainline between the North East and London and between London and Wales on the Great Western line. The trains will be a valuable addition to the country's rail network.

I want to congratulate the Government for their decision and pay tribute to the previous Government who first started work on the Intercity Express Programme. Most of all, I

want to thank the people of the North East for the way they pulled together and made the economic case for the Hitachi bid.

As a region we can be proud of how we campaigned together through the North East Chamber of Commerce, The Northern TUC, Durham County Council, the Federation of Small Businesses, UNITE and the thousands of people who signed the "Back on Track" campaign petition launched by The Northern Echo.

I also want to thank One North East, the soon to be abolished Regional Development Agency, for their work in attracting Hitachi to the region. Our approach has been non-partisan, held cross-party support in the region and put before the Government the facts of our case. I genuinely believe our reasonable, balanced and considered approach made it harder for the Government to say 'No'.



Aycliffe Artist Exhibits in Newcastle



Tim Cornley from Newton Aycliffe started painting last year after a career in teaching. Some of his work is due to appear as part of The Biscuit Factory Art Gallery in Newcastle's Spring Exhibition.

It will run from Saturday March 12th for 3 months and is his first real exhibition since starting to paint. Tim also has work in Darlington's Gallerina and can be contacted for commissions via his website www.timcornley.com

ON THE MOVE

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LOCAL CHARITY PCP RECEIVES £50,000 GRANT

PCP was today celebrating after receiving £50,000 from the Department of Health. Jane Hartley, Chief Executive said "This vital funding will help us to continue with the vital work we do to support disadvantaged people to improve their health and wellbeing and improve their skills."

The money was received as part of a £3.6 million Financial Assistance Fund set up by the Department of Health to support charities, which need money immediately to continue their valuable work this financial year. This will enable these organisations to continue their valuable work and supporting thousands of people with a whole range of needs.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley said: "I'm pleased that we're able to give this money to PCP to ensure they are able to keep providing valuable support and services for the people they help.

"Charities play an important role in our vision for the Big Society and it is right

that in these difficult economic circumstances we should give short-term support to organisations like PCP which are helping to support health and care services. This support will ensure that strong, independent voluntary organisations survive and are able to prepare for future opportunities that will be opened up by public service reform."

Local charity PCP runs the award winning Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe which provides access to a Hydrotherapy pool, therapies, lifestyle and exercise classes and learning opportunities to enable people from across Co. Durham & Darlington to improve their health and wellbeing. PCP also runs a number of projects in the community aimed at supporting people to improve their health, lifestyle and skills across Co. Durham and Tees Valley. For more information see www.pcp.uk.net or call 01325 321234 for a programme of activities.

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Greenfield School Community & Arts College

YEAR 8 RUGBY FESTIVAL

The following pupils from Greenfield School Community & Arts College took part in a Rugby Festival at Tudhoe School on Thursday, 17th February.

They had the exciting opportunity to learn more about Rugby and take part in a range of skills sessions led by Tamara Taylor an England Rugby player. They then played in a tournament against Sedgfield, St Johns and Tudhoe where they all were fantastic and really engaged in the event.

Greenfield B came second which is a fantastic achievement as many of the girls had never played Rugby before. Greenfield A came in first place and again played fantastic and worked hard as a team against some tough opposition.

Also Patrice O'Donnell won a special award for player of the tournament; she played extremely well and scored a number of tries.

An outstanding effort from all the girls and we hope to continue our success with Girls Rugby.

A Team

Sophie Bennett
Zoe Blakey
Elle Cliff
Mia Dunbar
Rebecca Lowes
Patrice O'Donnell
Ashleigh Postlewaite
Kate Scowen

B TEAM

Shanaya Atkinson Jones
Abi Barker
Georgia Bunce
Sasha Kellet
Emma Stapleton
Chloe Stannard
Tanisha Waters



MEARS DONATE £500 TO STEPHENSON WAY SCHOOL



David Walters, Customer and Community Manager and Tracey Wilson Customer Care Officer at Mears Sedgfield and Tenant Evelyn French visited a local school to present a cheque for £500, which Evelyn had won in the Mears Competition at the CIH Conference in Harrogate. Evelyn stated "The school is close to where I live and they are looking for funds to develop the garden area in the school, this money will go a long way towards this project"

Mr Dobson, Head teacher said "At first we thought it was a joke as no one gives that kind of money to our school, The gesture is excellent and I will ensure that I will update both Mears and Mrs French on the progress of the project" David Walters said "Mears are happy to donate to such a worthy project. During our visit we saw activities in school centred on the Indian culture and both Evelyn and Tracey Wilson, Customer Care Office were happy to take part."

NOMINATE MOST ACTIVE STUDENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Newton Press launched a scheme in August 2010 to encourage students in Year 11 at Greenfield and Woodham College's to excel in their last year to win great prizes including a Laptop, Ebooks and Ipods.

There are five different categories so everyone had a fair chance, categories include Most Helpful Student at School; Most Active Student in the Community; Top Academic Student; Top Sport Student; and Most Improved Student.

All the categories but one are finalised through

teachers and staff at the schools, but Newton News need the help of readers to find the "most active student in the community".

Remember the person you nominate must attend either Greenfield or Woodham Colleges and be in year 11. Please send your nominees and the reason why you have nominated them to paul@newtonnews.co.uk or write to Paul Howarth c/o Newton Press, St Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX or hand in at Walkers Butchers (Simpasturegate) or Taylors Newsforce (Town Centre) before 30th May 2011.

The sponsors for this event are Tesco, Newton Aycliffe Town Centre Management, Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club, Newton News and Newton Press who have all generously donated money to purchase the prizes.

The winning students will be awarded their prizes at the Year 11 Proms at the end of the school term by Newton Press Director Paul Howarth and the Rotary Club President.

AYCLIFFE SPD VICTIM STARTS CHARITY

Sarah Dightam of Newton Aycliffe has started the first SPD Charity offering support to all SPD sufferers whether pre, during or post pregnancy including help for other pregnancy related conditions or problems.

Sarah was disabled by the complaint during her pregnancy and is suitably qualified to give advice.

The website is www.supportpelvicdysfunction.co.uk which contains frequently asked questions to help people cope better with email and telephone support systems in place.

move on homes

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**Heatherburn Court
Woodham Village
£89,500**

3 bedroom end link property, fitted kitchen, d/glazed, conservatory, GCH, well maintained home

**Skirlaw Road
Newton Aycliffe
£65,000**

2 bedroom mid terrace, modern fitted kitchen, d/ glazed, GCH, gardens, realistically priced

**Church Close
Newton Aycliffe
£170,000**

Impressive 3 bedroom detached house. Superb fitted kitchen. Excellent Order. Garage and Gardens. Desirable Location. Must be viewed.

**Prospect Terrace
Chilton
£79,950**

Deceptively spacious two bedroom terrace property. Superb fitted Dining/Kitchen. Modern Bathroom/WC, DG, GCH, Greatly improved

**Cheltenham Way
Woodham Village
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4-bed detached. Lounge, Dining Room, fitted oak kitchen, utility, conservatory, En-suite shower room. Superb landscaped gardens. Garage. A delightful property. Internal inspection recommended.

**Annand Way
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£165,000**

Competitively priced 3 bedroom detached house. Ensuite shower room. Integral Garage. Fitted Kitchen. DG. Chain Free!

**Wycliffe Close
Newton Aycliffe
£109,950**

3 bedroom detached, d/ glazed, GCH, garage, no chain, priced to sell

**Dent Walk
Newton Aycliffe
£75,000**

3 bed mid terrace, double glazed, GCH, chain free, immediate vacant possession.

**Clover Court
Woodham Village
£161,950**

A much improved 3 bedroom detached house, conservatory, DG, Modern bathroom/WC, private enclosed gardens

**Cheltenham Way
Woodham Village
£205,000**

Delightful 3 bedroom detached bungalow, conservatory, d/ garage, d/ glazed, south facing gardens

**Karles Close
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£235,000**

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

**Aidens Walk
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£205,000**

An extended 4 bedroom detached home. Two ensuite facilities, sun room, solid oak breakfast kitchen, immaculate throughout, must be viewed.

**Pemberton Road
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£105,000**

3 bedroom semi detached, conservatory, d/ glazed, GCH, off road parking, no chain

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2 bedroom mid terrace property, unfurnished, £450pcm + Bond

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**Heild Close
Newton Aycliffe
£74,500**

A 2 bedroom mid terrace property. Double glazed, gas central heating, fitted kitchen, immediate vacant possession. Good location

Editorial

LOCAL PROBLEMS SOLVED LOCALLY

A Newton News editorial around the time of the snow and ice crisis, which created havoc and prevented people getting to work, might be proved correct.

We suggested there was no point in spending £millions gritting and clearing main roads if people could not get out of their own streets!

We said clearing streets was an on-the-spot problem which the County Council should delegate to local authorities, in our case, the Town Council.

We dared suggest that a Parish Council, given the resources, could tackle the work, locally, to clear snow and ice to help people get to work and allow emergency and other incoming services to do their job.

It is gratifying to see the Town Council has taken this forward and may get responsibility for this and other local jobs which are currently being wastefully carried out by County. For example, is it an efficient use of men and machinery to travel into an area to complete a job which could be done cheaper on the spot?

It is nice to see common sense prevail and simple solutions to problems being considered.

Who knows, with a bit of luck, something might be in place to tackle the problems of next winter?

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

TOWN COUNCIL TO CLEAR SNOW & ADOPT STATION

Last week's Environment Meeting contained some important items. Townspeople need to be made aware that – given the cuts that Durham County Council is having to make – the Town Council is offering to cooperate with Durham County Council to deliver certain services.

First, the meeting instructed officers to progress discussions with DCC regarding snow clearance. We already assist with the filling of the 67 salt bins in the town. The suggestion is that we might fit snow plough blades and salt spreaders to a couple of our mini-tractors. This would allow us to clear – during the week – priority pathways. People will have to be reasonable – we obviously cannot clear ALL pathways! But it would make things a little better.

The meeting also delegated the Leader, Deputy Leader and Town Clerk to approach DCC with regards to taking over from the County Council the management of its environmental spaces within the town. This would allow us to keep the areas cleaner and more frequently maintained. Also, our Town Pride and enthusiastic Environmental Volunteer teams would be able to get into special areas like Byerley Park Nature Reserve.

We would be able to apply a consistent and town-wide ecological plan which would encourage the migration of species and improve biodiversity. In short, things could be much better if DCC will lease or licence the land to us to look after.

Of course, we are just beginning discussions, and we need to make sure that we don't saddle the Town Council with liabilities which we will later regret. But things are tight at the moment, and the Town Council wishes to 'do its bit' to help where it can.

In similar vein, the Town Council is adopting Newton Aycliffe Station. We will be tidying up the nearby

scrub areas, and maintaining flower tubs on the platform. We won't be responsible for the decorations, buildings or line, but hopefully we will be able to help it all look smart.

Another environmental initiative announced by the Leader was our intention to investigate the possibility of planting a woodland area in Woodham Burn as our contribution to celebrating the Queen's Jubilee next year.

We considered a letter from a dog-walker, revolted at finding human waste in the Lorry Park, who asked if the Council could build a toilet there. This is obviously too expensive a solution just for the occasional filthy lorry driver who cannot be bothered to walk to the Sports Complex! But we will ask the Town Pride team to check that the area is clean.

By contrast to the Environment Committee (which dealt with a string of new initiatives),

the Recreation Committee which follows immediately after was very much a case of 'business as normal'. We heard reports from the Golf Professional and the Sports Complex Leisure managers.

Both are enthusiastically developing their sections, and both reported a welcome increase in business in January. We urge all townspeople to use the Golf Course and Oak Leaf facilities whenever they can.

Finally, a problem has arisen with the hiring of the flat-back vehicles we use for the Santa Tours, and the Councillors authorised the officers to find an alternative supplier. Townspeople can be assured that (however Scrooge-like the government) Santa WILL be coming to Newton Aycliffe next Christmas Eve!

JCL

"A NEW ERA OF OPTIMISM AND PROSPERITY"

Dear Sir,
Forty years ago, Central Avenue and the Blue Bridge teemed with the sounds and was thick with the smell of traffic - early and late - as workers made their way to and from Aycliffe Industrial Estate. The town was vibrant and optimistic. Newton Aycliffe was a good place to live. Since those heady days, times have not been so good; the lifeblood, flowing into and out of the Estate, became more of a trickle. Yes, there were success stories. Yet all too often, they were false dawns, morning glories that faded and died.

Our town was struggling. But now, with the news that Hitachi is to develop a factory - on our Business Park - a new era of optimism and prosperity beckons for both workers and local businesses alike.

Very many people and organisations have played a part in this modern day success story.

The media have banged the drum; The Northern Echo and the Newton News included. Durham County Council have also done sterling work in bringing this non-political alliance together. However, I think that special praise should go to our MP, Mr Phil Wilson. He has worked tirelessly to bring this to fruition and deserves all of the accolades that will come his way.

At a time when many politicians have a bad Press, here is someone who we can rely on, as an integral part of our community. Well done, Phil. Well done, Newton Aycliffe!

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Sign Language Course at The Library

Newton Aycliffe Library are looking to hold an Introduction to Sign Language course in the near future. If interested please contact the Library on 01325 312856.

Last Chance to Help Your Club Funds

This is the last opportunity for organisations in the town to raise money for their own funds, just by selling raffle tickets in the Rotary Club Bumper Community Draw. They have obtained all the prizes totalling over £3,000 including a 40" TV, Two "Take That" tickets, a Sofa Bed, Bathroom Suite and much more.

Rotary have organised everything else even a special draw night on 7th April at the British Legion Club with entertainment and supper (£5).

All you do is sell tickets and keep half the money to help your own club funds. The other 50%, after expenses, will be donated to the Macmillan Cancer Care and the Great North Air Ambulance.

If you want to be involved contact Project Leader Syd Howarth on 300212 or 320901 e-mail syd@newtonpress.net

If you've got a business idea, don't just sit on it.

Jade Upton
Lily Lloyd Flowers

Jade Upton didn't. She got in touch with Be Enterprising who helped her start her own business - Lily Lloyd Flowers. With a whole bunch of useful advice and help with accessing funding, it wasn't long before she was up and running. So if you ever need a florist, give her a call on **01388 779 207**. We've helped over 3000 people to start new businesses in County Durham - why not join Jade and be one of them?

Call Be Enterprising on 0800 030 4134 or visit www.be-enterprising.biz and make it happen.

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MP Won a Hard Fight

Dear Sir,
Phil Wilson is to be congratulated for spearheading the campaign and fighting tooth and nail to get the Hitachi factory and jobs in Newton Aycliffe. He fought against the odds and the Government must be credited with listening to the case he put
Arun M Chandran

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LETTERS

Save Be-Enterprising

Dear Sir,
I am asking people to write to their local MP to save Be-enterprising.biz. It has helped thousands of businesses and charities to start up, yet Durham County Council are to close it in September! If we lose this, unemployment will only get worse as people will not be able to have the help they need to become self employed. Be-enterprising helps with business plans free advice and grants! This cannot stop! People should write to their MP Phil Wilson at wilsonphil@parliament.uk
Sarah Dightam

K9's GOT TALENT

Has your dog got the Rex Factor?

K9 Pursuits Dog Day Care are celebrating their 5th Birthday on the 27th March. In conjunction with their open day celebrations they are holding a competition for talented dogs. A panel of judges consisting of Simon Growl, Sharon Dogbone, Louis Leash and Doggy Minogue will be looking for a dog with Star Quality. The competition will be open to all dogs whether they can sing, dance, do tricks or whose owners' just think they are extra special in some other way. All they have to do is convince the judges that they have the Bow Wow Factor. On entering the competition they are also helping other dogs less fortunate than themselves as all entry fees will be donated to Dogs Trust in Darlington. The event will be held at K9 Pursuits Dog Day Care and Training Centre on Aycliffe Business Park. You never know the Judges might even discover the next "Canine Superstar". For more information please contact Gill Crawford or Andrea Rogers. Whitworth Ave Aycliffe Business Park Tel 301177 or 07813 962077. e-mail: k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk

Youthy Members Make Quality Films of Life in Newton Aycliffe

Budding young animators from Newton Aycliffe got to show off two short films, based on their experiences of living in the area this week. The youngsters are all aged between 13 and 17 and attend Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. have spent the last six months working on the films as part of County Durham's Positive Futures project. Artists from The Forge teamed up with youth workers from the centre to teach the girls animation techniques to bring to life their experiences of being a young girl in the South Durham town. They were given the opportunity to use cameras to film their stories and were shown how to create storyboards to plan and sequence a film and got the chance to act in their creations as well as learning editing, directing and exhibiting skills. Lisa Denham, Positive Futures coordinator, said: "All of the girls are local to the Newton Aycliffe area and use the Youth Centre but came together as a new group to work on the arts project. The films are so good they are a true testament to the hard work of these young people and I think they are good enough to be entered for any number of young people's awards." The films, 4EVA Fighting, a film about differing attitudes to fighting and Never Walk Alone, a film about staying safe, were showcased last week at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre. Those who took part were: Amy Swainston, Ashleigh



Barker, Becca Gibbon, Catherine Jackson, Chelcie Braithwaite, Courtney Jenkins, Jess Reed, Kayleigh Simpson, Kelly Keane, Kim Hindmarch, Lauren Welch, Leah Oxley, Paige Braithwaite, Staci Richardson, Toni Mcmillan, Zara Peek.

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COUNTY COUNCIL WILL BUY LOCALLY

Firms in County Durham could be in line for a business boost if the County Council adopts a new approach to buying goods and services. Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet will be asked to agree the Buy Local: Buy Durham initiative when they meet on Wednesday, 9 March. Introducing the new system would help make the purchasing procedure more transparent and create more opportunities for local suppliers to tender for work. Cllr Alan Napier, Durham County Council Cabinet member for resources, said: "The council's procurement policy aims to secure the best value for money while also taking into account our wider environmental, social and economic responsibilities. "Adopting Buy Local: Buy Durham would provide a major opportunity for the County Council to demonstrate its commitment to creating opportunities to spend money with local suppliers, which could have economic benefits at a local level." Under the Council's current procurement policy, all

purchases above £50,000 must be made via an electronic system. Goods and services valued between £5,001 and £50,000 can be secured on a quotation-only basis, with a minimum of three quotes needed. Buy Local: Buy Durham would mean all purchases above £5,000 would be made through the electronic system, making them more transparent and more standardised. The system would also ensure that at least one quotation was sought from a company based in County Durham. The Council would still have to ensure contracts were awarded on a fair basis and would not be able to favour local firms when deciding on a supplier, but it is hoped the new rules would address concerns that the procurement process puts smaller businesses at a disadvantage. Efforts would also be made to raise awareness of the new system, with County Durham firms being encouraged to register as suppliers. Businesses wishing to register as a potential supplier to the County Council should visit www.nepoportal.org

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WATCH OUT FOR CARJACKERS

You walk across the car park, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine put it into reverse. When you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you stop to remove that paper that is obstructing your view.

When you reach the back of your vehicle, carjackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. And I bet a lady driver's purse is still in the car. So the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised! If you see a piece of paper stuck to your back window, lock your doors and just drive away. Remove the paper later. Pass this story to friends and family, especially to women.

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH 2011
ALI CARTER
EXHIBITION #7
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 Doors 7pm (6pm for VIP's) - last orders 11:30pm



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DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!



'Don't Feed the Plants' will be the advice given by members of Woodham Youth Theatre as they stage their production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Students from Woodham Technology College have been rehearsing hard to entertain the audience with acting, singing and dancing as they tell the story of Skid Row and the man eating plant Audrey II. The cast involves students from Year 7 to 11 as well as a large team of Woodham Student Leaders who are involved in backstage, front of house, technical support and publicity. 'Woodham has a history of staging successful musicals and is delighted to welcome back some former students who have contacted the College to see if they can be of any assistance.



The performance dates are Wednesday 9th March, Thursday 10th March and Friday 11th March. Tickets are available from the College priced at £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. Seats are allocated so please purchase tickets in advance by calling the College on 01325 300328.

COUNTY DISABLED SWIMMERS COULD BECOME PARALYMPIANS

The Olympics is a pipe dream for most but not for young disabled swimmers in County Durham. Primary and Secondary pupils from 11 schools including Greenfield competed in the second annual Disability Swimming Gala at Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre in Durham City on Friday 11th February, where having a splashing time while talent spotting the country's next generation of elite athletes was the order of the day. Boys and girls aged seven to fifteen were selected to take part by their school or qualified at the recent Aquasplash Festivals which took place across the county to recognise skills achieved at swimming lessons. All participants were cheered on by parents, teachers and their classmates as they competed in a variety of different strokes and distances depending on their ability, including: mixed,

fly and freestyle races over 25m. The regional development coach for Disability Swimming with ASA (Amateur Swimming Association), Jo Barber attended to select youngsters to go on to further assessment later in the year, when they will put their skills to the test for the chance to gain a place on the county squad. Durham County Council's school swimming Development Officer, Lee Dalzell, said: "The main aim of the competition was to promote swimming as a fun activity for children with disabilities. However, for some skilled swimmers this could be the start of something great, with a scout here on the lookout for young stars that show the potential to be future Paralympians." For more information on disability swimming contact Laura Welford on 0191 301 8811.

Record Attempt at Church FairTrade Event

St Clare's Church in Newton Aycliffe is hosting a FairTrade Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th March with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of Fair Trading.

The usual popular cake stall will be there and we shall also be taking part in trying to break the record for 'the world's longest bunting': we shall send our bunting off to join the countrywide effort.

Why not come along and have a tea/coffee, peruse the fairtrade items and add your name to the bunting - it's fun! If you have an old fairtrade t-shirt then bring that along too as long as you don't mind it being cut up into bunting! Children are welcome to the event and can add their piece of bunting too. Coffee Morning from 10.00am - 2.00pm

Ash Wednesday Services

Services for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, will be held at St. Elizabeth's Church, Woodham at 7pm on Wednesday 9th March and at St. Andrews Church, Aycliffe Village at 11am.

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PREVIEW EVENT

Wednesday 16th March, 2011 - 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Featuring a Professional Craft Fair - Entrance Free - All Welcome

www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



Youth Groups Wanted for Community Fair

Free Exhibition space for the Community Fair, organised by the town's Rotary Club, is filling up with only a few weeks left to the event on 14th May in the Leisure Centre. Project Leader Rotarian Roger Curtis told Newton News he would like more applicants from Youth Groups including entertainers and schools.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to show what social activities our community offers. We are fortunate to have so many different organisations and they should grasp this chance to increase awareness and membership" said Roger. To book your place make contact by e-mail: roger.curtis@onyxnet.co.uk

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 Email: syd@newtonnews.co.uk

MEASURES TO IMPROVE POLICE PRODUCTIVITY

Durham Police Authority Members have approved an innovative approach to measuring and managing productivity for local policing at a meeting of the Authority recently.

Durham Constabulary presented a report to the Authority identifying new working measures put in place to record the Force's productivity. These measures include indicators such as police availability, sickness and overtime, the number of crimes detected per officer, crime and anti-social behaviour reduction, attended incidents within the target time (per officer) and victim and public perceptions of the service provided by the Force.

Just weeks after the recent

report announcing how well Durham Constabulary is performing nationally with the best crime detection rates in thirty years, Chairman of Durham Police Authority, Mr Peter Thompson, said: "Taking an innovative approach at how productivity can be measured is one of the ways the Authority and Force is looking forward to continually develop Durham Constabulary's current status and standing".

These new reporting measures further highlight the radical and forward thinking approach of how local policing in the future will have to do more with less.

Members also heard how these will provide further advantages to local communities, as they are produced for all twelve main police stations across County Durham and Darlington.

This means that specific productivity indicators can be compared across different police stations enabling the areas to continue to work together proactively and learn from each other more closely in the future by highlighting good practice and any potential areas for improvement.

Durham Constabulary's Assistant Chief Officer Gary Ridley said: "This is part of the Force's ongoing process to improve value for money to the public. We will be looking to improve on our productivity work over time".



THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Saturday 5th 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 Smith 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

Saturday 12th March - "Shanghai"

GIG PIT REVIEW AT THE TURBINIA - "Wouldn't have wanted to miss this gig!! The first set kicked off with Purple's 'Hush' and was swiftly followed by Whitesnake's 'Fool for your Lovin'". Another Whitesnake track, 'Is This Love' was followed up with Purple's 'Burn'. I was taken by the effortless vocals of Russ, although he professed to have broken into a sweat in the first ten minutes, it didn't look that way. Nick on lead looked to be thoroughly enjoying himself, I love to see that. The opening tones of 'Radar Love' made me stop in my tracks. The second set began with Bon Jovi's 'Shot Through the Heart', and The Kinks, 'You Really Got Me'. Def Leppard's 'Animal' and two of my favourite Billy Idol tracks, 'White Wedding' and 'Rebel Yell' were dished out, expertly done IMO, one of THE best renditions of both I've heard in a long time. Aerosmith's 'Walk This Way' and Neil Young's 'Free World' were the last two tracks of the second set. Somewhere in amongst these, Nick showed us his plentiful guitar skills with a mega solo, his solo was interrupted for a harmonica solo by John, they then sat and had a guitar v harmonica competition. Fun to watch and a great way to showcase talent and entertain the troops!! Rapturous encore shouts got us another 4 (!!!) tracks, Whitesnake 'Here I Go Again', Van Halen 'Talkin' About Love' and 'Jump' and finally Lizzies 'Rosalee'

Saturday 19th March - "Mugshot"

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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COMMUNITY FAIR PLACES GOING FAST

Free places for the town's Community Fair organised by the Rotary Club are going fast and applicants are urged to fill in the application form as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

"We have room for 70 organisations and over two thirds have been booked already for the Saturday May 14th event so it is important groups take advantage of this opportunity to promote themselves and recruit new members" said Project Leader Roger Curtis.

COMMUNITY FAIR 2011 APPLICATION FORM

We wish to apply for a stand ☐

We want to perform/give a demonstration ☐

Group/Organisation Name:

Contact (s) Name:

Address

Telephone Number:

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Brief Description of activity:

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BUSINESS AS USUAL AS POLICE MOVE TO TEMPORARY STATION

Police in Newton Aycliffe have set up a new home having moved from their station in the town's Central Avenue.

From Monday, February 28, they will be operating from premises half a mile away at Parsons Court on the nearby Aycliffe Business Park.

The station will continue to provide 24-hour policing and outside of those hours immediate assistance will be available through the control room.

Chief Inspector Vicki Martin, Neighbourhood Manager, said: "We are committed to maintaining a strong policing presence in Newton Aycliffe and, although we are operating from another base, it is business as usual and local people should not experience any difference in the level of service they receive.

The close proximity of Parsons Court to the old station means that people needing to visit the new



location will experience little if any inconvenience." Chief Inspector Martin added: "We can still be contacted on both the

non-emergency telephone number **0345 6060 365** and **999** if an emergency arises."

The move to new premises is to allow for the demolition of the existing station and the rebuilding of a replacement on the same site. It is anticipated this will be completed by late 2012. The Police Station can also be accessed by Welbury Way and if you travel by car you can park just outside the door making it more convenient for visitors.

MP Praises Training for Young 3M Engineers



(Left) Apprentices Kalvin Atkinson and Lisa Pape with Phil Wilson MP and plant manager Shaun Morley (right).

The craft apprenticeship scheme run by 3M at the company's Aycliffe site won praise from Sedgefield MP Phil Wilson during a visit

to the plant. During his tour of the site, which manufactures respirators and products for the vehicle aftercare market, Mr Wilson met with two of the apprentices on the scheme.

"Companies like 3M should be congratulated for providing such outstanding training and support for budding engineers of the future," Mr Wilson commented.

The 3M scheme is accredited with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and one of its apprentices, 21-year-old Lisa Pape, was recently a runner-up in the IET's Young Female Engineer of the Year awards.

Plant Manager Shaun Morley said the site took great pride in the quality of its training programme. "We believe very strongly in investing in our people and nurturing new talent," he added. "The apprenticeship scheme plays a big part in the site's succession planning."

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Are You Getting Married?

If you or your partner live or lived in Newton Aycliffe or the surrounding villages and are planning to get married, Newton News would like to record this special day, using your photo; to let our readers know about your happy occasion and recording the event in print and on our website.

Contact Paul or Syd on 01325 300212 to find out how

Good Service from Newton News Advertisers

Dear Sir,
When we read the Newton News we were surprised to find out how many services advertise, and wondered who we should choose. Well for a first class service Brian from B.A. Plumbing & Tiling Services was the only guy who turned up to give a quote and did the work we needed in one day. Again, J.W. North Exterior Maintenance, a service second to none, and last but not least Trevor the main man at T.S. Plastering with all work guaranteed, e-mail bigtrevifc@hotmail.co.uk. It is really good to know that you can count on good local workmanship who advertise in Newton News.
Steve & Ann Sproat

Cynical Look at Life

Dear Sir,
Let's put pensioners in jail and criminals in a nursing home.

This way pensioners would have access to showers, hobbies and walks. They'd receive unlimited free prescriptions, dental and medical treatment, wheelchairs etc and they'd receive money for doing very little.

They would have constant video monitoring, helped instantly, if they fell, or needed assistance. Bedding would be washed twice a week, and all clothing would be ironed and returned.

A guard would check on them every 20 minutes and they would have 3 meals a day. They would have family visits in a suite built for that purpose.

They would have access to a library, weight room, spiritual counselling, pool and education. Simple

clothing, shoes, slippers, PJ's and legal aid would be free, on request.

Private, secure rooms for all, with an exercise outdoor yard, with gardens. Each senior citizen could have a PC, a TV, Radio and daily phone calls.

There would be a Board of Directors to hear complaints, and the guards would have a code of conduct that would be strictly adhered to.

Criminals in a Home would get cold food, be left all alone and unsupervised. Bed with lights out at 8pm, showers once a week. Pay £600 a week to live in a tiny room and have no hope of ever getting out.

Anon

5th May is Referendum Day Across England

Dear Sir

On Thursday 5 May, voters will decide who represents them in local elections across England. There will also be a referendum on whether we use the 'first past the post' or 'alternative vote' system to elect MPs to the UK Parliament.

Many of your readers will want to get involved in campaigning in the referendum and elections. This could be by setting up a campaign group, standing as a candidate or starting a political party.

It is important that people can get involved but they should be aware that there are rules they need to follow. These are set out on our website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance and I'd encourage anyone planning to play an active role in the campaigns to check the rules.

Peter Wardle
Chief Executive
Electoral Commission



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FORCES PENSION?

Dear Sir,

As a volunteer caseworker for the Royal British Legion and SSAFA Forces Help I meet ex-Service people and families of all ages in my work.

I am writing to you to raise awareness among the many ex-Service personnel within the Greater Aycliffe area who may be entitled to a Preserved Pension.

Anyone who served in the Armed Forces and left AFTER 6 April 1975 with less than 22 years service may be entitled to a Preserved Pension at the age of 60, proportionate to their respective service.

Initially, this was 5 years service and the qualifying age was discharge over the age of 26. In 1978 the age restriction was lifted and on 6/4/1988 the length of service reduced to 2 years to qualify.

So, from 1975 to 1978 a person had to have 5 years service and be aged 26 or over when they left, from 1978 the age didn't matter but they still needed to have 5 years service and from 1988 they only needed 2 years service.

Anyone who thinks they are entitled can ring 0800 085 3600 which is the Pension advisory line. Also a reminder to those who do know they are entitled. When you near 60 you have to write to the Army/Navy/Air Force to claim your pension. They do not contact you. I hope this will help some of our residents at this time.

Wilf Emmerson
Lowther Drive

MORE PRAISE FOR AUTOSAFE GARAGE

Dear Sir,

I have seen a couple of letters from readers praising Autosafe Garage. I too receive great service from them and find it refreshing and fortunate to find such an honest and trustworthy garage.

Over the years I have been at the hands of many unscrupulous ones who have carried out work not required or not carried out work and still charged. I highly recommend Andy and his team and wish them all the very best in their new premises.

Fleur Brown, Thwaites Close

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Praise for MP Phil

Dear Sir,

I would first like to say I am certainly no hardcore Labour supporter, however I felt it important to make public the work Phil Wilson has put in to ensure the Hitachi led consortium moves into Newton Aycliffe, bringing with it massive economic growth to the town, and the wider north east community. Having taken an interest in the campaign personally, I had the pleasure of meeting Phil at his Town Centre office, and was inspired by his enthusiasm for the project, his knowledge of what was required and his determination to take the campaign to the masses.

The hard work put in by Phil and the rest of the team behind the campaign has paid off and the government have seen fit to progress with the IEP.

Having had many years of a high profile MP in Sedgefield we finally have an MP who puts in the work and effort for the people of his constituency.

I would like to thank Phil for the effort and commitment to this campaign and wish him every success as a long term MP for Sedgefield.

Andrew Long
18 Neville Parade

Give More Time for Debate in Council

Dear Sir,

For someone who spends a lot of time belittling the newly formed Great Aycliffe Independents all John Clare does is give everyone the impression the Labour Group are worried by our presence.

There is certainly a growing need for Councillors who are free of political sway, and only want to serve the people in an open and transparent way. Voters are certainly disillusioned with a system that is falling short of their idea of democracy.

They are demanding what they thought they already had - elected representatives who possess both practical and real values, constantly standing up for your interests, not some hidden political party agenda.

I have been heavily involved in another attack on the future of disabled people in Remploy Factories. Currently the company have ignored all legal and agreed processes regarding redundancy, leading us to believe this is only the first step in a serious attempt to privatise Remploy and sell it off, making the situation even more serious for disabled people.

As a member of Remploy Trade Union National Negotiating committee I am involved in lots of meaningful debates with Politicians and Directors which means an awful lot of travelling

from one meeting to another which are rapidly arranged at short notice. Of course, if John would like a real debate he could join in and support these disabled workers.

The Deputy PM Nick Clegg was an ardent supporter of supported employment factories before the election but stands aside whilst Tory attacks the most vulnerable people in our society - not just in Remploy either.

Getting back to the debate on Environment as suggested by John Clare, perhaps as Deputy Leader he would support a move not to limit debate to 5 minutes per person. This would encourage more debate rather than Councillors behaving like nodding dogs.

John D Clare talks of the topicality and relevance of the environment. Will he debate the problem we had when snow was here and pavements were treacherous? Or what about public toilets in the Town Centre. I could go on, but I am sure readers will remember vividly what was done and what was not.

Politics is about more than contrasting opinions and debate, it is also about manipulating people, stifling debate and belittling the opposition.

Kenneth Stubbs
Secretary
(Great Aycliffe Independents)

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8-11 Years (4.15-5.45pm)
Girls Group (6-8pm)

WEDNESDAY
Project Session (currently)
Babysitting Course (4-5.30pm)
Arts Award (6-8pm)

THURSDAY
Inters (4.30-6.30pm) 11-13 years
Boys Group (7-9pm)

FRIDAY
Seniors Drop-In (6.30-8.30pm)

SUNDAY
Duke of Edinburgh (6-8.30pm)

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Stephenson Way School Enjoy Indian Week

Children at Stephenson Way Community Primary School enjoyed a very different week recently when the whole week was devoted to Indian arts and culture. All pupils worked with artist Caroline Jariwala on a series of Rangoli patterns and other paintings inspired by the art of India. Sitar player Nick Able also visited to show the children how the sitar is played – and made out of a dried pumpkin! Bina showed the children how to dress in Indian fashionable clothes and how to dance Bollywood style. Other musicians demonstrated Indian rhythms on the violin and a series of Indian flutes.

Local drama and storytellers Debutots also visited the school to run a series of workshops to develop the children's acting skills using an Indian story as the basis for their work. Indian food was also on the week's menu when ExpoChef visited and demonstrated a range of Indian foods for the children to taste. The week ended with a 'play in a day', the famous story of Rama and Sita was performed under the careful direction of Konflux Arts.

Apart from all these visitors the teaching staff contributed to the week with their own ideas; an imaginary flight

to India took place in Year 1 complete with individual passports, in-flight meals and even a movie! Lots of classes picked up the art ideas and developed their own artwork to display. There was plenty of spicy smells around school as Indian food was cooked for the children and even for the parents in Year 2. Well done to everyone concerned and a special thanks to Gem Arts in Gateshead who helped recruit the programme of visitors.



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

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Aqualisa, Darlington
- 2nd: SAMSUNG 42" TV**
Tesco, Aycliffe
- 3rd: "TAKE THAT" TICKETS (2)**
Premier Events, Aycliffe
- 4th: SOFABED**
Factory Furniture Outlet, Aycliffe
- 5th: ROUND OF GOLF FOR 4**
Darlington Golf Club
- 6th: ROUND OF GOLF FOR 4**
Bransford Golf Club
- 7th: BOWLING FOR 15 + FOOD**
Planet Leisure, Aycliffe
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Redworth Hall Health Club

18th: 5 DAY

19th: 10 DAY

20th: 15 DAY

21st: 20 DAY

22nd: 25 DAY

23rd: 30 DAY

24th: 35 DAY

25th: 40 DAY

26th: 45 DAY

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College Commitment to Improving Health Recognised



Photo: Students Luke Kitching, Charlotte Walker, Emily Henderson, Emma Perry and Carolyn Phillips.

Bishop Auckland College has been successful in gaining a Healthy FE Recognition Award through the Excellence Gateway in conjunction with Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

The award is an acknowledgement of the College's strong commitment to developing the delivery of services to students and staff including healthy food choices, benefits of physical exercise, drug and alcohol awareness and a drop in sexual health clinic. The Healthy FE Recognition Award acknowledges providers who are committed to developing healthy services in partnership arrangements with local and regional health services.

Claire Holliday from Student Support said "We are delighted that Bishop Auckland College has been formally recognised for its hard work and commitment to continue improving health promotion and the health services available to our students and staff.

One of the activities that students enjoy is the weekly dance sessions delivered by their fellow students which is a great form of exercise."



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Agnew Community Centre are about to buck the national trend with regard to having young people in the 18 to 24

age group as Trustees with 2 nominations from this age group being proposed at our Annual General Meeting

on Wednesday 16th March at 7pm.

We have also decided to book a date for volunteers for the Durham LitterFree Big Spring Clean which will be on Saturday 9th April from 11am to 1pm to meet at the Agnew Centre for around 10-30am to organise the group. We hope to cover litter picking both in Morrison Close and Stargate Close and if you want to join us, you will be covered by our Insurance.

Please contact us so that we can have the equipment ready for those on the pick by contacting the Secretary on 01325 321504 office, 01325 301033 home, 07749 236 853 or agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com - Please join us in helping to smarten up your area.

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LOST CAT



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Tel: 01325 301852
Mob: 07909 545280

LOST Samsung pink mobile phone, Hatfield Road area on Monday 28th February about teatime. Please ring 01325 318376

Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John on 316 630

RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311 215

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SHILDON SPIRITUALIST Church, Middleton Road. An Evening of Mediumship with Bill Lloyd on Wednesday 9th March at 7pm. Entry £3 on the door.

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RELIABLE, trustworthy, lady is looking for work. Housework, shopping, dog walking, anything considered. Ring Sandra on 01325 301 327

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FLORIDA VILLA Disney, sleeps 8/10, pool, spa, games room, visit www.florida-villa-2-rent.com or call 320 409

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1 BEDROOM / Lounge, fully furnished, luxurious house with sun lounge and open kitchen, jacuzzi, steam bath, gym, TV and Sky. Privacy and garden in the back. School Aycliffe area. Professionals only, refs required, no pets, ideal for working couple, Rent £550 per month in advance and bond of £500. No bills to pay. Tel 07899 678891

THREE TERRACE houses, three bedroom and four bedroom available, one is Honister Place, Pateley Close and Alston Walk, Newton Aycliffe. Bond £200, references required. Rent £110 per week. DHSS welcome. Tel 07899 678891

3 BEDROOM house to rent, £115 per week. 07882 440377
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3 BEDROOM house to rent, Skirlaw Road. Bond and references required, no DSS. Tel 07974 427337

3 BEDROOM house to let in Hutton Place, Newton Aycliffe. Rent £500, Admin £300. Tel 07724 314498

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READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Spectacular photograph of a double rainbow, taken on Woodham Way recently by Brent Moorfoot

TOP MARK FOR ADVICE SERVICE

A service offering help and information to consumers in County Durham has been given the thumbs up by a national watchdog.

Durham County Council's Consumer Advice Service has retained its Quality Mark after an inspection on behalf of the National Legal Services Commission found that it continued to offer a high standard of service to customers.

Joanne Waller, Durham County Council's Head of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection, said: "It is reassuring for residents that if they have problems with goods or services that they cannot readily resolve themselves; our Consumer Advice Service is on hand to provide expert advice and assistance."

Initial advice and guidance

for consumers is provided by the government-backed Consumer Direct telephone line.

Queries and complaints that prove difficult to answer are referred to the Council's consumer advice staff, who can offer in-depth legal advice, including where appropriate, how to take action in the civil courts to resolve a dispute with a trader.

From April 2009 to March 2010, the team provided advice and assistance to more than 2,000 consumers. The most common complaints related to home improvements, second-hand cars, telecommunications services and furniture.

Anyone experiencing problems with goods or services should contact on 08 454 04 05 06.

Situations Vacant

Getting Newtonians Back To Work

Advertise Your Vacancies FREE

Newton News are introducing a new feature for all locally based businesses to help you get the staff needed to fill the vacant positions.

We are offering a FREE three line advert similar to those displayed below (for bigger sizes please call). To display your jobs here email your details to: paul@newtonnews.co.uk

NEWTON NEWS require reliable paper deliverers to add to our reserve list in all areas of the town. Paying 4p per paper (+ extra for leaflets), rounds vary in size from 150-600. Call 300 212 today to join our reserves list.

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In Memoriam

EDITH KELL 03/03/2006
Loved and remembered
everyday Always in our hearts
Your loving husband Bob and
Family xx

Obituary

GALLAGHER, Mary
Josephine of Hartley Road. Died
Friday 25th February 2011 at
Darlington Memorial Hospital.
Beloved Mother of Vincent,
Clare and Paul. Grandmother
to Victoria, Amanda and Flynn.
The Funeral is on Monday
7th March, 12noon at West
Cemetery, School Aycliffe
Lane. Flowers to Co-operative
Funeral Care, Macmillan Road
or donations in lieu to charity
SHEILA BEADLE on 2nd
March, peacefully at home
after a prolonged illness
of Broomfield Avenue,
Eaglescliffe (formerly of
Newton Aycliffe). Sheila, aged
80 years. Dearly loved Wife
of Stanley, much loved Mum
of Lesley, Gillian, Michael,
Martin, Rachel and the late
Susan. A dear Mother-in-
Law, Nana, Great Nana and
Sister. Funeral to take place
on Wednesday 9th March.
Friends please meet for Service
in Darlington Crematorium at
2.15pm

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removing? Can't wait for the
Council? Tel. 321 678

Denise Ledley



Just close your eyes and you
will see all the memories
that you have of me. Just
sit and relax and you will
find I am really still there
inside your mind. Love
you always. Katherine,
Keith, Stephen, Donna and
Grandchildren xxx

DENI LEDLEY 5th March
2010. If God could build a
staircase and take away some
pain, I would walk right up to
Heaven and bring you home
again. Always remembered.
Love, Harry

DENI LEDLEY 5th March
2010. If tears could build a
stairway, and memories a lane.
I'd walk right up to Heaven, and
bring you back again. Because
you are so sadly missed. Love,
Beryl and Joe

GEORGE SMITH 5th March
2009. We think about you often,
we talk about you too. We have
our special memories, we wish
we still had you. But among
our tears and heartache, there's
one thing makes us glad. That
you chose us to share with
you, those precious years we
had. Love and miss you lots.
Madge, Sue, Christopher and
Fiona xx. Love and kisses from
Great Grandson Charlie xx

DERICK YOUNG 2nd March
2005. The tears in my eyes can
be wiped away, but the ache in
my heart is here to stay. Loving
Wife, Mary xxxxx

DERICK YOUNG 2nd March
2005. Treasured memories of a
loving Dad, Father-in-Law and
Granda. Sadly missed, David,
Louise and family xxx

J.R. CLISH In memory of our
beloved Grandfather. You will
live on in our hearts and souls
as an eternal inspiration to us
all. You will be greatly missed
by your 10 Grandchildren and
22 Great Grandchildren in
Australia. As we say farewell
with our tears we feel joy to
know the Lord is welcoming
you with loving arms and you
will be looking over us in
everything we do. We love you
Grandad. God bless xxxxx

SYLVIA BLOWES (5th
March 1999). It's that day
today, you were taken from us.
But your place in our hearts
Mam, will belong to us. A
place in our lives no one could
ever fill. We hold back the tears
when we speak your name.
Because that ache in our hearts
will always remain. Loved and
missed. Husband Vic, Children,
Grandchildren and your four
Great Grandchildren (who you
never got to know) xxxxx

Anna Elizabeth McCormick

Happy 18th Birthday
6th March 2011

To a much loved Daughter,
big Sister, Granddaughter,
Great Granddaughter,
Niece and Cousin.
We wish you all you wish
for yourself, health and
happiness always.
From all your very proud
family xxxxxxx

SHIRES Congratulations Lisa
and Martin on your Silver
Wedding Anniversary. Lots of
love from Mam and Dad xxx
SHIRES Lisa and Martin,
congratulations on your 25th
Wedding Anniversary. All our
love and best wishes, Karen,
Kevin, Kayleigh and Jamie

JOHN ALLEN (4th March
1971). Congratulations on your
40th birthday John. All our
love, Mam and Dad xxx

JOHN ALLEN (4th March
1971). Happy 40th birthday
Dad. Lots of love, Charlotte
and Luke xxx

JOHN ALLEN (4th March
2011). Congratulations on
your 40th John. Love, Craig,
Annabel, Vinnie, Oscar and
Daisy xxx

AMBER MARSHALL Best
wishes on your 18th birthday.
Lots of love from Auntie Sue,
Andy and Grandad xxx

AMBER MARSHALL Happy
18th birthday. Love, Auntie
Debra, Uncle Geoff, Joel and
Stevie xxx

TAYLOR SMITH Happy 21st
birthday Taylor. Wishing you
love, happiness and success for
your future. Love from Nana,
Grandad and Great Grandma
xxx

TAYLOR SMITH Happy
21st birthday Taylor. Lots of
love Uncle John, Auntie Claire,
Ollie and Arthur xxx

JOHN ALLEN Congratulations
on your 40th birthday on 4th March 2011.
Love, Auntie Margaret, Uncle
Joe and family

RICHARD LEWIS
TATHAM, Congratulations
on your recent high profile
Engagement to our Indian
Princess Daughter, Nina. All
our love Mr & Mrs Gupta xxx

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ENJOY LEARNING Guitar,
Bass or Drums at home.
Tel Roger 01325 321444 -
Friendly, Experienced, Local.

Wanted

WANTED household items,
old TVs cookers, washers,
fridges, bikes etc. Garage
clearances undertaken. Tel
321567 or 07984 817111

Congratulations

Sarah Louise Fleming



Happy 21st Birthday
13th March 2011

We hope all your wishes
and dreams come true for
the future. We are all very
proud of you and hope you
have a fantastic party. Lots
of love, Mum, Phil and
Nana xxx

David Dawson



50 YEARS OLD
Have a great day
Love from Linda, Amanda
and Christine

KATIE HYMAS. Happy
Birthday (04-03-11) Hope you
have a good day, and get loads
of presents. All the best from
Dan, Wendy and Toni xxx

SIMON SAPSFORD Well
done Simon on winning your
boxing title. We are all very
proud of you. Grandad Dennis
would have been very proud
too. Love from Nana and
Grandad Archer, Mam, Dad,
Samantha, Luke and all your
loving family xxx

JOHN ROBERT AISBITT
8th March. Happy 70th
birthday Dad. Love from
Gerard, Sharon, Nigel, Jacqui,
Sweepy and Dottie

JOHN ROBERT AISBITT
8th March. Happy 70th
birthday Grandad. All our love
from Luke, Cameron, Gerard,
Finlay, Bailey and Benedict

SHANNON HESLOP 5th
March 2011. Happy 13th
birthday sweetheart. Love you
so so much. Love always, Mam
and Phill xxx

SHANNON HESLOP Happy
13th birthday Princess. Love
you always, Grandma and
Grandad

SHANNON HESLOP Happy
13th birthday Shannon. Love
from Gram

Amber Marshall



Happy 18th Birthday
5th March 2011

To a special Daughter and
Sister. Lots of love from
Mam, Dad and Jake xxx

Alison Cairney



50 TODAY!
6th March 2011

Alison Cairney Happy
birthday Mam. Have a
great time in London. Love,
Holly, Abby and Michael
xxx

Alison Cairney Happy
50th birthday Daughter.
Love, Mam xxx

Alison Cairney Happy
birthday. Have a great day.
Love, Bryan xxx

Alison Cairney. Happy
50th birthday Sis. Love,
Annie and Bob xxx

Carl Vickers



Happy 30th Birthday
Have a great day. Lots of
love, Mam, Dad, Chris, Bev,
Olivia, Cade, Maddison and
Grandma

Beth and Aimee



Happy 13th Birthday Beth
10th March 2011

Happy 13th to our lovely Daughter Bethany,
Ma and Da xxxxx

Happy 18th Birthday Aimee
Happy 18th to our wonderful Niece Aimee.
Auntie Jules, Uncle Kev and Bethany xxx

Bob and Sandra Norris



Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary
6th March 2011

Mam and Dad, Gran and Grandad, all our love
Joanne, David, Donna, Bri, Scott, Rachel,
Bobbie-Jo, Jack, Charlie and Leo xxxxx

Kieran Dixon



Happy 18th birthday
Congratulations to a very
special Son and Brother on
your 18th birthday. How
time has flown. Love you
loads, Mum, Dad and Sister
Karina xxx

Matty



Happy 18th Birthday
Matty

I'm proud of you Son.
Have a great day, but don't
get too drunk, college in the
morning! LOL. Love, Dad
and Mandy

Exchange

FROM 2 bedroom house
in Shafto Way **TO** old part
of town with front and rear
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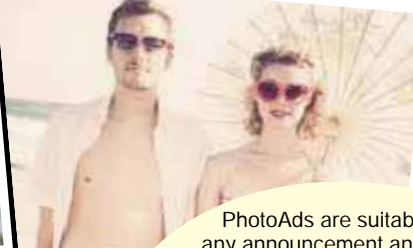
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NEWTON AYCLIFFE JUNIORS UNDER 8's DERBY DAY VICTORY

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club 6 - Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club 1

Due to the recent weather THE game was played on the 3G pitch which took both teams a little getting used to. NAYFC struggled to put their usual passing game together first half with NAYFC hunting down in packs allowing little time on the ball, nevertheless NAYFC created plenty of clear cut chances but were unable to put the finishing touch. It was only a matter of time before they did and when the ball broke lose from a corner Bowden-Bloomfield struck a sweet left foot shot into the bottom right. 1-0. Half time. Second half NAYFC got their passing game together using the flanks and feeding the ball to Rogers, who picked the ball up 30 yard out turned and let one fly, the ball looked to be heading top left before a headed flick from Pilling sent it crashing off the bar. From the rebound Pilling was the first to react and placed his shot hard and low under the diving keeper, bottom left. 2-0. NAYFC were still making hard work of things and from a defensive clearance NAYFC picked the ball up inside the NAJFC half and hit it first time over the keeper top right, great

finish, 2-1. NAYFC pressed again from kick off but NAYFC were fighting hard in defence clearing thier ranks, it was from a clearance that Pilling collected the ball and made way for goal. A nice 1-2 with Rogers set Pilling to shoot and with the aid of a slight deflection the ball found the net for 3-1. This relaxed NAYFC who started to play from the back using the whole of the pitch spreading the ball around and stretching NAYFC. Green-Lacy was now using the ball well setting attacks down both flanks. Green-Lacy slid a ball down the line for Proudlock who went past two with a great turn of foot before cutting back and passing a well weighted ball to the near post for Rogers who calmly tucked it away bottom right for 4-1. Green-Lacy kept setting Proudlock away down the wing, and he did not need any encouragement as he skipped past defenders with ease before once again supplying a quality cross into the box. The ball was struck toward goal and rebound out to Preshous who struck a powerful shot first time top left, 5-1. Proudlock had the measure of the opposition

right field and was causing them trouble each time he got the ball, and from another run, and another quality cross Pilling got a well deserved hat-trick with a well contolled touch using the speed of the ball to guide it into the net, 6-1. full time. Player of the Match: Pilling. Goals: Bowden-Bloomfield 1, Pilling 3, Rogers 1, Preshous 1. The second game was a little more open but with the same pattern NAJFC attacking and NAYFC trying to catch us on the break. Once again chance after chance went begging with NAYFC unable to convert thier chances. However, before half time Pilling opened the scoring with his 4th of the day. Half time 1-0. Second half saw the game open up with both teams playing attacking football and team work. NAYFC were unable to add to there opening goal and as time neared the final whistle NAYFC won a corner. A good ball played into the box found a free player back post who struck a crisp shot 1-1. Full time. Man Of the Match: Thomas Coates for outstanding defending. Goals from Pilling.

PHIL WILSON MP TO OPEN AYCLIFFE FC's NEW STAND

Sports Club members Charlie Fielding and Kevin Jones have worked tirelessly on completing the new stand at Moore Lane thanks to steel donated by Aycliffe firm Finley Structures.

The 200 spectators stand sits next to Aycliffe's 113-seater stand at their rapidly-improving ground, and will be officially opened by Phil Wilson before Aycliffe's second division game against neighbours Darlington RA on Friday night (7.30pm kick-off).

It now means Aycliffe, who are currently 10 points clear at the top of the Northern League second division with nine games to go, should get the go-ahead for first division football at a ground inspection later this month.

"Getting the stand up before the March 31 deadline has helped to relieve a major burden for the football club and will enable us to focus on trying to make sure we finish in the top three of the second division so that we can actually win promotion," said Gary Farley.

The new stand, which has saved the club around £10,000, will be officially named in memory of William Finley, the father of Finley Structures managing director John, who donated the steel for the construction.

William Finley played for various clubs at Northern League level in the 1940s and 50s, including Black Hall, Lancaster, Bishop, Ushaw Moor, Brandon and Esh Winning Albion, winning 19 trophies. Aycliffe



AYCLIFFE'S RUN-IN

Friday 4th March: Darlington RA (H), 7.30pm
Wednesday 9th March: Crook Town (A), 7.30pm
Saturday 12th March: Team Northumbria (A), 3pm
Tuesday 15th March: Whickham (A), 7.30pm
Saturday 19th March: Brandon United (H), 3pm
Tuesday 22nd March: Marske Utd (A), Div2 Cup, 7.30pm
Saturday 26th March: Seaham Red Star (A), 3pm
Saturday 2nd April: Chester-le-Street (H), 3pm
Saturday 16th April: Birtley Town (H), 3pm
Saturday 23rd April: Thornaby (H), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

are also indebted to Tony Pepper, of Pepper Draughting, who supplied the structural drawings for the stand free of charge.

Aycliffe took another huge stride towards the Northern League Division Two title with a hard-fought win over Northallerton Town last weekend. Goalkeeper Scott Pocklington saved a penalty just before half-time which proved instrumental in the victory, preserving Aycliffe's 22nd-minute lead given to Allan Oliver's side by the returning Elliot Gardner. With teenage midfielder Josh Knox wrapping the points up with a 90th-minute second,

the Newtonians stretched their advantage at the top to 10 points, with nearest challengers Guisborough slipping up at home to Birtley Town.

Team: Pocklington, Close, Peck, Beckett, Broom (Milton 85), Owen (Woodhouse 74), Gardner (Raitt 74), Tarling, Knox, Mickle, Byrne. Unused: McMullen, Campbell.

INDOOR BOWLS AT THE OAK LEAF

Don't just think about it, come and give it a go! Indoor Bowls is a sport suitable for all ages. All you need are carpet slippers (or any footwear with a very smooth sole) and bowls - which can be hired at Reception. Bowls is a highly social activity which can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of their skill level. Some players enjoy just casual play and a drink with friends, some enjoy friendly matches against other Clubs, whilst others compete in County and National competitions - the choice is yours. Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club members are a friendly group and would be delighted if you came and found out for yourselves what an enjoyable pastime bowling is.

Go on, make the effort. We will be pleased to see you and will do all we can to provide you with the opportunity to improve your health and well being, and also to socialise and make new friends of all ages.

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