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TOWN SCHOOL HELPS JAPAN



John Burrows, North East Shelterbox Co-ordinator and a member of the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe, visited St. Francis School this week to talk to the children about the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami. He showed the students the contents of a shelterbox

which provides a tent, tools, cooking equipment, bedding and warmth for ten people. John explained the equivalent of towns from Newcastle to Middlesbrough had been completely wiped out and millions of people were homeless with no electricity, running water or proper sanitation. The School promised to organise fundraising activities to contribute to buying a shelterbox which costs nearly £600.

NEED HELP WITH DEBT?

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POLICE WARNING TO SCHOOL PARKING OFFENDERS

The Police are issuing a warning to parents who park outside Vane Road School that they must observe the zig zag lines and cones indicating "No Parking" in this area.

There has been a problem there for a number of years and the police in conjunction with the school are following up on all the complaints.

They do not want to enforce the rules with fines and hope that offending motorists will comply. It is only a small minority of parents who are ignoring the "no parking" areas and causing huge problems. If they persist the Police say they will take action against the offenders.

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In Aid of ROTARY & LOCAL CHARITIES

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Monday, 11th April at 6.00pm
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Friday, 15th April
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Easter Fun for County Durham Children

A fun-packed Easter is in store for hundreds of children across County Durham. The Council's Children's Network will be hosting a series of events for disabled children and young people during the school holidays.

The programme of activities will begin on Monday, 18 April with a craft workshop and the launch of the network's new directory. The booklet, which is published each year, provides details of activities for disabled children and young people and information for parents, carers and professionals on organisations which can offer help and support.

Activities will take place at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre on Wednesday, 27 April from 10am - 1pm. To book a place at any of the sessions contact the Children's Network on 0191 383 4438/6545. Children should be registered with the network if they wish to attend a session.

NEWTON AYCLIFFE SCOUTS SUPPORTER AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

EASTER FUNDRAISING DAY
at their Centre in Bluebell Way, Newton Aycliffe
on Easter Monday the 25th April from 1pm to 4pm

The aim of the day is to raise funds to go towards their extensions and refurbishment projects.

Various Stalls - Bouncy Castle - Speed Shoot - Barbeque
Easter Egg Hunt and many other fantastic things to enjoy

Raffle with prizes including - 1 Week Spa Facility Use at the garden Hotel - 1 Helping Service from Bluebell Way Voluntary Garage - 2 Tickets to Ruff 'n' Tumble, 2 Hours General Cleaning from North East Training and Cleaning Service and many other great prizes

We really would like to make this day a great success and hope that as many people as possible can come and have a fabulous time.

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe presents a
CHARITY CABARET NIGHT
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CLUB
Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe
THURSDAY, 14th APRIL, 2011
from 7.30pm

In aid of: "Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Trust" and "Wear Valley Women's Aid" (Bishop Auckland)
Cabaret Acts : Raffle : Pie & Peas : Bingo

Tickets £5.00 each and are available from the Town Council Offices and the Royal British Legion Club
Telephone: 01325 300700 (Council Offices)

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Saturday 7th May
2pm

To Book Please Ring 01325 313 924

THE TURBINIA

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Saturday 9th April - "Thyn Lizzy"

Just got back from the THYN LIZZY gig at the Sandy Outdoor Tent. All I can say, is Phil Lynott dead? I don't think so... Jesus Christ, the lead guitars were incredible and the drummer was outstanding and I was totally humbled by Glenn on Bass. Don't believe a word was cool as out with a blues intro (5 minutes) and then the usual version to finish it off was such a contrast and skillfully done. 'Boys' was great and 'Dancing in the Moonlight' with Kenny Sax guesting was sublime as was the 'Kayleigh' inspired 'Emerald'.

'Awesome guys, made my hellbent weekend!' - GIG PIT REVIEW

Saturday 16th & 23rd - "Tommy & The Oddballs"
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RECENT REVIEWS FROM TOON ROCK PAGES... 'Awesome Band, as ever they played absolutely brilliantly, Tommy as fantastic as ever (THE best frontman in the North East, bar none, the man is an inspiration, a legend), Jeff playing goosebump solos on Hay Joe'... 'I can't believe how good they were. It was like walking into a pub, full of your best mates with the best goddam juke box you could hope for. Every member of the band is a really good and talented player. The fringe was great, the entertainment value was great too. The audience (well packed) loved it from the off... They are a superb band, prob THE BEST in the North East, period!' Tracks Covered By THE WHO, BRYAN ADAMS, THIN LIZZY, FREE, HENDRIX, STONES, BAD COMPANY, KINGS OF LEON & Much, Much More...

Start of GARY'S birthday week - Should be ONE OF THE GIGS OF THE YEAR, DONT MISS IT!! www.tommyandtheoddballs.webshots.com

Saturday 30th April - to be confirmed

For more information on bands go to
www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034
Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

SOUTH DURHAM BUSINESS AWARDS LAUNCHED AT INAUGURAL BALL

A great night was had by all at the South Durham Business Network Inaugural Ball hosted at Whitworth Hall, Spennymoor. Over 80 business people and friends



came together to celebrate local business success. North East Band Funk Conspiracy provided excellent entertainment and the party went on well into the early hours. A spontaneous raffle, with gifts donated by local businesses, raised over £200 towards the Japanese Tsunami and Earthquake appeal. This provided the perfect backdrop for the launch of the Network's 1st Annual Business Awards. The date for the Awards has been set for 9th December at Spennymoor Town Hall and promises to be another glittering success. We invite all businesses in the South Durham region to get involved, either by nominating themselves or their friends, colleagues, clients. For more information about the award categories and how to apply, contact Darren Race or Jackie Wade at info@sdbn.org.uk. This is a real opportunity for businesses of all shapes and sizes to get some well-deserved recognition for their efforts at surviving and indeed thriving during particularly challenging economic times, adding to the local landscape and jobs market. The awards represent the full spectrum of businesses across South Durham and aim to have a very broad appeal – from start-up and home based business to best local retailer and manufacturing company, there's truly something for everyone. There will also be a special award for a business or individual who has made an "Outstanding Contribution" to the South Durham Area. We would also encourage larger businesses to get behind the awards and come forward to sponsor the event or indeed a specific award category. Details of our sponsorship packages on request.

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SATURDAY 30th APRIL
MONDAY 2nd MAY

Park and Run for Fun

Calling all ladies looking to put your best foot forward and run for fun. County Durham women aged 16 or over can sign up to a fun run with a choice of three and five kilometre routes at Hardwick Park, Sedgefield on Sunday, 15th May. The event is being organised by Durham County Council's sport and physical activity team to highlight the wide variety of fitness opportunities now on offer. Race organiser, Helen Tones, said: "This fun run is one of a number of activities and programmes to encourage more women to participate in regular exercise and take advantage of the health benefits this can bring. "What better way to have a go at recreational running than in the beautiful surroundings of Hardwick Park." Participants will each receive water and a goody bag containing a medal. Entry is £3. Deadline for entries is Monday, 9 May. Registration on the day of the event begins at 9.45am, ready for a warm-up session at 10.45am and a race start time of 11am. For more information or to book a place call 0191 527 4738

Major Cash Boost for County Arts

County Durham is to receive almost £635,000 to boost arts and culture over the next few years. The Arts Council announced today that Durham County Council will receive the funding for arts provision between 2012/13 and 2014/15. The money will help fund the annual BRASS and book festivals and 'signature' events such as the bi-annual Lumiere as well as other activities aimed at increasing involvement in the arts. Cllr Eunice Huntington, Durham County Council Cabinetmember for healthier communities, said: "We are thrilled that our application for funding from the Arts Council has been successful. "It is a major boost for the county and reinforces the commitment we made in our City of Culture bid to using the arts not just to enrich quality of life in the county but also to boost regeneration and increase the involvement of hard-to-reach members of the community. "The council has told us that the national demand for funding exceeded their budget by more than a third so it is especially pleasing that our bid was considered to be so strong. "The grant will help us to continue providing some of the major arts events that have proved so popular over recent years as well as giving us the opportunity to develop new events and activities." The money will be directed through a new Durham Cultural Partnership, which will operate via an Arts and Festivals Hub based at the Gala Theatre. The creation of the hub will enable the festivals to be developed throughout the year, with investment in new talent, targeting new audiences and extending opportunities for involvement. The council is set to receive £200,000 during 2012/2013 and 2013/14 and £234,390 for 2014/15. The authority will be working with the Arts Council over the coming months to finalise the details of how the funding will be spent.

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WHERE, WHEN AND HOW MUCH?
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Facebook Group Raise £1586



A group of friends have raised hundreds of pounds for charity after joining a fitness group on Facebook! More than 20 people from Newton Aycliffe all joined a group on the social networking phenomenon as part of a New Year's resolution to get fit. Inspired by fitness fanatic Brian Riley, eleven of them then signed up to take on an 11-mile trek at Hamsterley Forest in County Durham at the weekend. Between them they've managed to raise £1,586 up to now,

with more yet to follow. The walk was organised by Macmillan Cancer Support, with participants raising the bulk of their money online. One of the charity walkers, Liz Lambert, said: "We joined a group on Facebook as a joke at first, but then everyone was bitten by the fitness bug and some of us signed up to the 11-mile walk at Hamsterley to raise money for Macmillan, which is a great cause. Liz completed the walk with her partner Chris, Simon and Natalie Bowker, Peter

Haden, Steve Wood, Alison Wigham, Christine Riley and Lisa Hill. Brian Riley and Tony "the wrestler" Norton, who were the first people to sign up to the walk, weren't able to complete it, but plan to do it another time after raising sponsorship money. Photograph: *Back: Simon Bowker, Chris Lambert, Peter Haden, Steve Wood. Front: Alison Wigham, Christine Riley, Liz Lambert, Natalie Bowker and Lisa Hill.*

The Easter Eggstravaganza

By 14 year old Rachel Boddy

Young people across County Durham are promised an Easter holiday packed to the brim with exciting and exhilarating activities. Durham County Council is providing countless activities in leisure centres and community venues across the county, during weekdays over the two-week holiday starting April 15. This Easter the selection of sporting activities are particularly varied with many original and stimulating ideas being incorporated to encourage participation. Movie-themed dance classes like High School Musical, Step Up (streetdance), and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang are available or youngsters can aspire to be Lady Gaga. If you are unsure about the sessions you wish to attend, they are offering mixed sessions where you can try two or more sports. For example: badminton and swimming or sports mix sessions. As well as the unusual, there are plenty more conventional sports on offer for all ability levels. Youngsters can learn new or hone skills during the holiday in a variety of club-based sports sessions including cricket, football, taekwondo and rowing and there's a range of disability sport activities including swimming, gymnastics and multi-sports. Whatever the goal, qualified coaches will be on hand to ensure that everyone leaves feeling fulfilled and proud of

their progress. Durham County Council's leisure development manager, Deborah Homes said: 'We've been talking to young people in the area, to aid our understanding of what they want. As a result, we have been able to create an astonishing variety of events for them to attend many at a low cost. We have not left any stone unturned for the Easter eggstravaganza, accommodating all ages and abilities. Furthermore, this program will aid many youngsters to discover hidden talents, which we hope will inspire them for life!' To target younger children, there are a variety of activities including Bouncy Crafty Kids - a novel idea incorporating physical activities with art as the main focus, and soft play and inflatable sessions both wet and dry. The sessions are not restricted to the indoors, they include outdoor sports and adventure based activities. Also, it's not just the children having all the fun! For families there's a selection of outdoor walking activities; aiming to create a positive community atmosphere, while bringing families together. The 'schools out' programme and booking information is now available on the council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/schoolsout or pick up a brochure from leisure centres and libraries.

NEW TRAVEL CARD OFFERS EXTRA HELP

A new travel card will ensure people with a disability or illness can receive a helping hand when using public transport. The County Durham Bridge Card can be used by passengers to let drivers know that they may need extra help during their journey. The card, which was launched last year at County Hall, has been developed by Durham County Council in partnership with local bus operators, the Learning Disability Partnership and the Learning Disability Parliament. Cllr Neil Foster, Durham County Council Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This is a really simple idea that should prove invaluable in giving people greater independence. "Bridge Cards can be used by

anyone who lacks confidence or is worried about using public transport for whatever reason, whether it's illness, disability or age. "By showing their card, users can let drivers or other staff know that they might need help in counting out money, remembering to get off at the right stop or getting properly seated before a vehicle pulls away." The card was officially launched by Councillor Foster who handed the first card over to representatives from the Learning Disability Partnership and the Learning Disability Parliament at County Hall. Cards are available from Durham County Council customer access points, by calling 0191 372 5386 or emailing passengertransport@durham.gov.uk - No registration is required.

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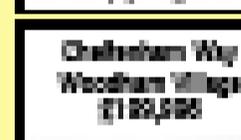
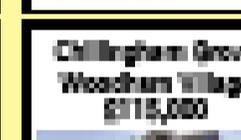
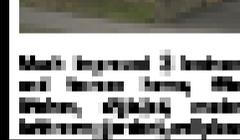
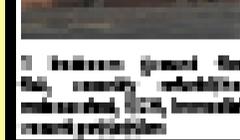
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<p style="text-align: center;">Chatterham Way Woodham Village £209,000</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Delightful 3 bedroom detached house, 2 bathrooms, contemporary kitchen, double garage, landscaped garden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Annand Way Cobblers Hall £189,000</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Completely rebuilt 3 bedroom detached house, double garage, new kitchen, double garage, new garden, 24hr security</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prospect Terrace Chilton £24,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Excellent 2 bedroom terraced house, modern kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Burroughill Close School Aycliffe £216,000</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Delicious 3 bedroom detached house, landscaped garden, double garage, modern kitchen, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Heathburn Court Woodham Village £99,800</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3 bedroom and 2 bath property, full kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wycliffe Close Newton Aycliffe £108,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3 bedroom detached, 2 bathrooms, 24hr security, double garage, fully fitted kitchen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clover Court Woodham Village £161,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">4 room improved 3 bedroom detached house, contemporary kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Richardson Way Newton Aycliffe £90,000</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Multi improved 3 bedroom and 2 bath house, full kitchen, double garage, modern bathroom, garden, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Durham Road Spanymoor £169,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3 bedroom ground floor flat, modern kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Layton Court Woodham Village £159,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Well presented 3 bedroom and 2 bath house, fully fitted kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Chatterham Way Woodham Village £189,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3 bedroom detached house, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chillingham Grove Woodham Village £119,000</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">An excellent 3 bedroom and 2 bath property, full kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Tarrow Court Woodham Village £112,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A well presented 3 bedroom and 2 bath property, full kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bevick Crescent Newton Aycliffe £97,550</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">An excellent two bedroom and 2 bath house, full kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chatterham Way Woodham Village £164,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3 bedroom detached house, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Farnham Close Woodham Village £94,500</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3 and 2 bedroom flat over 2nd floor, full kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Maham Way Greenfields £184,950</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">A really presented two bedroom detached house, contemporary kitchen, double garage, 24hr security, fully fitted</p>

MORE JOBS FOR AYCLIFFE

Newton News understands the same development company that brought Hitachi is close to signing another deal with Asda to

provide warehousing on an adjacent site bringing a further 300 jobs to Aycliffe. Clipper Logistics is fronting

the deal to take a 350,000 square foot warehouse at Amazon Park next door to Hitachi.

Aycliffe was chosen for its close proximity to the A1M and other logistic sites. Merchant Place Developments owns the 104-acre site in conjunction with Durham County Council. The project is said to be worth £10 million and could be confirmed in the next few weeks.

Changes to County's Bus Concessions

From April 1 members of the public entitled to concessionary travel are reminded there are important changes to Durham County Council's scheme.

If you qualify for concessionary rates on buses in the county and you travel before 09.30am then, from now on, you will be required to pay a flat rate of 50 pence. This fee applies to each journey you take but only before 09.30am.

Under the council's previous 'enhanced concessionary fares scheme' there was no charge for journeys before 09.30am. However, large reductions in Government grants mean that the authority can not afford to run this free service any longer.

The national travel scheme, which is statutory, provides free travel on local buses to the elderly and disabled between 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday and at all times on weekends and Bank

Holidays.

Adrian White, head of transport at Durham County Council said:

"There are currently 128,000 pass holders registered in the county. This flat rate of 50p for travel before 9.30am will affect about 10 per cent of those residents. While I realise that these people will not be pleased about it, the majority of pass holders will continue to enjoy the best travel scheme in the region."

This year 2011/12 Durham County Council must reduce its spending by £66.4m and over the next four years by £123.5m.

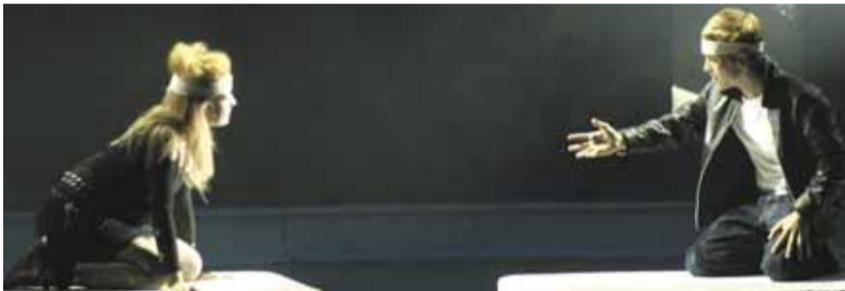
As part of these savings the council has also had to look at how it subsidises bus services across the county. The final list of those services which the council will no longer be able to subsidise is now complete. It can be viewed on the council's website www.durham.gov.uk

READERS' PHOTOGRAPHS



Steven Cartwright sent in two great photos of the pond at School Aycliffe. Readers are invited to send their digital photos to syd@newtonpress.net

DURHAM GALA THEATRE AUDITIONS TEENAGERS



The Gala Theatre Stage School is widely renowned for the fantastic productions they bring to the Gala stage throughout the year. GTSS has some of the finest talent in the North-East and many students go on to further their training in some of the worlds most prestigious performing arts academies.

Following the phenomenal success of their production last summer, Disney's Beauty and The Beast, GTSS are now taking on one of the worlds largest musicals; Les Miserables - School Edition. To enable them to do produce this show to its full potential, GTSS are holding open auditions for boys aged 14-19 years old. The auditions will take place at Gala Theatre, Durham on Saturday 9th April with recalls on Sunday 10th April. For further information and to register your interest please contact Kate Sorahan (Director) - ksorahan@galadurham.co.uk or call Joanne Alexander (Administrator) on 0191 332 4054.



Spring flowers by Gemma Russell

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NATIONWIDE STREET COMPETITION AT BLACKPOOL

The first Nationwide Street competition was held at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on 20th March, 2011. Our dancers enjoyed the day, albeit a very long day, some having left Newton Aycliffe at 5.30am and not returning till nearly 10pm.

In the 3-5 years Rosette, Amber Fenwick managed 5th place. The 6-8 years Girls' Rosette category saw Abbie Kennedy placed 2nd and Kira Watson 3rd. Kasia Shaw won her category of 6-10 years Girl's Stardance while Reece Atherton was placed 5th in the 6-10 years Boy's Stardance.

The Lee Green Under 13's Street Dance Crew "Blackout" was placed 3rd. The team is made up of 11 dancers, namely: Emily Kavangh, Megan Cross, Hayley Archer, Rebecca Lowes, Georgia Heads, Reece Atherton, Kasia Shaw, Libbie Anderson, Chloe Farley, Kalya Shaw and Annis Race.

For the first time the IDTA invited all dance centres to put together Quads (teams of 4 dancers) as an extra event at the competition. Two of our Quads managed 6th place: Under 12's category comprising Emily Kavanagh, Daniela Winwood, Georgia Heads and Kasia Shaw. The 13-17 years category was made up of Stephanie Wilson, Bethany Dagnall, Kalya Shaw and Georgia Wakefield.

Everyone who took part worked extremely hard for this competition. Well done to you all.

Anyone who has an interest in joining Lee Green Dance Centre please contact Bryan or Brenda Thomson on 01325 318239. Our classes include Freestyle Disco, Street, Lyrical Slow and Rock n Roll.

If you are interested in other classes, Caroline Race teaches Adult Street, Aerobics and Zumba at various other locations. For further information please contact Caroline on Tel. No. 07949 911 642 or 01325 312 573.



Kasia Shaw



Kira Watson & Abbie Kennedy



Amber Fenwick



Under 12's squad



Blackout

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WHY LIB-DEMS WANT "A.V."

Dear Sir,
The Referendum on 5th May is a huge milestone in our history. On that day, we will be asked whether we want an AV (alternative vote) system.

Basically, the way it works is that, instead of voting for one candidate (the candidate you want), you rank the candidates in order of preference. Supporters of AV point out that, currently, more than half our MPs failed to get a majority of the votes cast in their election. By AV, the votes for the unsuccessful candidates are redistributed until one candidate achieves majority support.

'True democracy!' cry the supporters of AV. But it is? You need to think about how AV will work in practice - how people will use their second votes in a three party system.

Will a Labour supporter ever put the Tories second? Never - they will give their second vote to the Lib-Dems.

Or will Tory voters ever put the Labour candidate second? Again, No! Most will choose the Lib-Dem as the better of two evils.

And what that means is that, in the 350 constituencies which don't elect their MP with a clear majority, it will probably be a Lib-Dem who wins in the end. Now you see why the Lib-Dems support AV!

To vote AV on 5th May is essentially to put the Lib-Dems in power for ever. Because where AV does not deliver us a Lib-Dem government outright, we will end up with a Coalition between the Lib-Dems and the party they choose as their partners.

And all that by MPs who have been elected with people's second, third ... perhaps even fifteenth choice votes. Will YOU agonise about whom you put sixth and seventh? As Winston Churchill said, under AV, 'a worthless vote elects a

Letter to the Editor

worthless politician'. We will NEVER be able to go back - can you see any of those Lib-Dem governments ever giving us a referendum opportunity to return to the present system!

No. Whether you are Tory or Labour, you need to realise that a vote for AV is to ensure that we will never have a Tory or Labour government again.

That's why we MUST turn out on 5th May in our millions to vote NO to AV. This is not just some meaningless, incomprehensible constitutional detail where apathy can prevail. A yes vote will create a Lib-Dem ascendancy for the rest of time. And we can't be having that.

John Clare

CHARITIES LOSE PART OF GIFT AID

Charities across the UK are set to lose out on £100m as Gift Aid transitional relief came to an end on 5th April 2011. Individuals are being urged to make donations now to avoid charities missing out.

Gift Aid is one of the easiest ways to make a donation tax effective. The charity reclaims the basic rate tax from the Inland Revenue. There is no extra cost to the donor.

According to Helen Besant-Roberts, a partner at accountancy firm, Hurst, who advises charities across the UK, "a personal donation of £5000 made now will lose out on £160 if it is made after 5th April. This means charities should actively be contacting donors requesting

they bring forward any pending donations. This is a vital tax break for charities. All charities will be affected especially at a time when charities are being hit from all angles with rising costs, government spending cuts, the VAT rise, and people giving less in a difficult climate."

In 2008 the basic rate of income tax was reduced from 22 per cent to 20 per cent, resulting in charities receiving a reduction in the amount of Gift Aid that could be claimed back. To soften the blow, the Government introduced a delay in its effects and Gift Aid transitional relief was introduced for three years, which is now coming to an end.

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FREE ENTRY TO SEDGEFIELD RACES

They say horseracing is the sport of kings, but you don't have to be royalty to enjoy a day at Sedgefield Races this month.

Sedgefield Racecourse is offering free admission on Thursday 14th April and more than 1,000 people have already snapped up the offer. It is Ladies Night at the racecourse, so there will be a great atmosphere and plenty of glamour.

In a move designed to broaden the appeal of horseracing, April has been designated as a national Free Racing Month, with 26 racecourses taking part across the country.

Visitors to Sedgefield can book in advance to receive

free entry to the Grandstand & Paddock Enclosure, usually priced at £13.

Jill Williamson, General Manager at Sedgefield said: "We want to encourage more people to try horseracing. It's a sport that has a core of dedicated fans but it also offers a great day out that anyone can enjoy and I'm delighted that so many people have already taken up the offer."

"Ladies Night is always a really popular event and this year people can get dressed up and come and enjoy the fun for free. As well as enjoying all the thrill of the racing, you can admire the horses up close, see some of the country's top jockeys

walking amongst the crowds, sip champagne with your friends, drink in the PIMM's enclosure, eat strawberries and cream, enjoy the great outdoors and have a little flutter. There will also be live music from Ruby Kind & The Strangers."

Free tickets must be booked in advance. Gates open at 3.30pm, the first race will begin at 5.30pm and the last will set off at 8.00pm. Upgrades are available. For more information and to book your free ticket visit www.sedgefield-racecourse.co.uk

Male Voice Choir Visit Town

Neville Parade Methodist Church invite you once again to hear the Billingham Synthonia Male Voice Choir on Saturday 16th April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 or pay at the door.

Originally formed in 1928 by I.C.I. workers the choir has continued to bring pleasure to audiences throughout the region.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to hear the choir once again. We extend a warm welcome to you to come along and join us.

Acupuncture Now Affordable at the PCC Community Clinic

A new type of acupuncture service will be starting at the Pioneering Care Centre from Thursday 21st April.

Christine Fletcher has been providing traditional acupuncture there for six months now, but has found many people are unable to afford the usual one-to-one treatments.

She has decided to start a 'community' or 'multibed' clinic where several people are treated together in one large room. In the Far East it is normal to treat many people together and many feel it is a more 'authentic' way to practice and receive acupuncture.

It is possible to offer this type of service because acupuncture needles can take 20-30 minutes to do their work, so Christine can place needles in one patient, leave them to relax into their treatment, and then move on to another patient. By treating more than one person each hour, the price of a treatment is significantly reduced.

Christine says that community clinics mean more patients are able to access treatment frequently enough and for long enough to get better and stay better. If you only have

a few treatments, or your treatments are too infrequent, the acupuncture may not build up the momentum to give you the healing you seek.

In China a typical treatment protocol could be acupuncture every other day for three months! Most people don't need that much acupuncture, but virtually every patient requires a course of treatment rather than a single treatment.

If you have not received acupuncture from Christine before, you would first be seen for a full initial consultation and treatment which will take up to 1½ hours on a one-to-one basis. You will then be able to choose whether you wish to have further appointments on a one-to-one basis, or whether you wish to attend the Community Acupuncture Clinic for follow up.

Christine says that as well as the reduced cost, an extra benefit of this sort of clinic is the community spirit that emerges when several people are treated together. People report that they like the sense of togetherness, and a collective energetic field becomes established which seems to make individual treatments more powerful.



Sometimes privacy can be an issue in a large room, but most acupuncture points are on the lower legs and arms, so trousers and sleeves can be rolled up appropriately. Screens and covers are also used to protect privacy where necessary.

The community clinics will be held on Mondays 5.00 to 7.00 pm (excluding bank holidays) and Thursdays 12.00 to 2.00 pm, and initial consultations are arranged individually. The cost of an initial appointment is £40.00 (£32.00 concessions) and a follow-up appointment at the community clinic costs £19.00 (£15.00 concessions).

Chris Thwaites, Operations Manager at the Pioneering Care Centre, said that this

new clinic will allow many more people to access traditional acupuncture. We are always looking for ways to help people at the Centre, and we realise money is tight at the present time. The community clinic will enable more people to attend for acupuncture at a lower cost.

For further information please phone Christine on 526140 or have a look at her website - www.aycliffe-acupuncture.co.uk. Other useful websites include the Pioneering Care Centre (www.pcc.uk.net), the British Acupuncture Council (www.acupuncture.org.uk), and the Association of Community and Multibed Acupuncture Clinics (www.acmac.net).

AFFORDABLE ACUPUNCTURE
at the
PIONEERING CARE CENTRE

Christine Fletcher BA, DipAc, MBAcC
Member of the British Acupuncture Council

Some people turn to acupuncture for help with a specific symptom or condition. Others use it to help maintain good health or just to improve their sense of wellbeing.

Traditional acupuncture aims to treat the whole person, so it can be effective for a wide range of health problems - physical, mental and emotional.

Try the new cheaper Community Clinic
Phone Christine for details.

01325 526140
www.Aycliffe-Acupuncture.co.uk

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Elmfield Place Newton Aycliffe from - £79,950 NEW
Choice of Two well presented Three Bed Link houses, G.C.H, D.G, Lounge, Dining Room, garden area. Viewing Recommended.

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A Top floor Flat, Two Bed, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, communal garden, C.G, D.G, intercom system, Viewing Recommended.

Beechfields Newton Aycliffe - £75,500
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Pemberton Road Newton Aycliffe - £94,950 NEW
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Gregory Court, Newton Aycliffe - £73,950
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Zumba During Lunch Break



Pupils at Greenfield School have been enjoying the fun, easy-to-follow, Zumba dance fitness craze during their lunch breaks.

With an extensive sports programme already in place, Barbara Davis (Director of Sport at Greenfield) was keen to introduce the latin-inspired moves of Zumba to the pupils so they could experience dance rhythms

in a way that was safe and exciting to them.

The children learnt routines set to a mixture of original Zumba music as well as other popular dance tracks. Zumba Instructor Jaime Hume who took the sessions commented, "I was really impressed with the energy and enthusiasm that the pupils brought to their classes. They were eager to learn and picked up the

moves very quickly." Beth Todd who tried Zumba for the first time said, "It was good fun and a laugh trying new moves"

As a result of the success of these sessions, and following on from the already popular adult classes at Greenfield Sports Centre, specific Teen Zumba classes for those aged 12 and over will be starting soon. Contact Jaime on 07956 588277.

Tesco Help Alzheimers Charity

Tesco's charity of the year is Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer Scotland. The Aycliffe store has set a target of £5000 to raise by the end of the year.

To start off they have two Easter Hampers and Tesco's are donating a bundle of goodies worth up to £50 for each hamper. The tickets are on sale from Monday 18th April ending Saturday 23rd April. You can buy tickets from the Customer Service Desk.

Together Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer Scotland are Tesco Charity of the Year and hope to raise £5 million to fund research, Dementia Community Roadshows and Dementia Support.

Since 1988, Tesco has chosen a different charity every year to be the focus for staff fundraising. The Tesco Charity Trust tops up staff fundraising to a maximum of £500,000. and



Tesco Community Champion Shirley Cormack (right) with Angela Walker and Katie Tarling

the money raised by each Tesco store, distribution centre, and office will build a better future for people with dementia.

The partnership will be supported throughout the year by a range of product promotions in Tesco stores which will be donating a

proportion of their sales to the charities. A donation of 0.0125p will also be made by Tesco Personal Finance PLC everytime a cash machine is used at Tesco until 29th February 2012. Clubcard customers can also donate their points to Alzheimer's Society.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Zumba Dancing has arrived at Neville Community Centre every Monday night from 7.30. Very good exercise and everyone can do it - give it a try!

The proposed Senior Citizens Pension of £140, with no means test, only applies to pensioners from 2014. Do you have a comment and what do you think of the reduction in the fuel allowance?

Darlington Big Band is coming on the 7th May at 2pm. Admission only £4, Seniors £3, Children £2. Collect your tickets at the door book by ringing 313924.

Always looking for paperback books - ring for collection. We also need more volunteers at the Centre. If you have a few hours spare please consider giving that time to help your community.

PRE-SCHOOL RAISE £351 FOR RED NOSE DAY



The children, parents and staff at St. Oswald's Pre-School did something 'funny for money' for Red Nose Day; this included a fun run around St. Oswald's Park.

Well done to everyone who took part and a big thank you to you all, a total of £351.50 was raised.

For more information on the Pre-School, please contact Jackie Swainston at Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 319880.

Catholic Children Penalised

Durham County Council is proposing to make major changes to its Home to School Transport Policy. These changes will affect parents who wish to send their children to Catholic schools.

It will mean that - unless a child qualifies for free transport on the basis of low income factors - no free transport will be provided in the County for children attending Catholic schools.

Consequently, the choice of many parents to send their children to Catholic schools will be removed as many will not be able to afford to pay for the transport. People are asked to register their opposition to the changes by completing the on-line consultation at www.durham.gov.uk/transport consultation

Send an e-mail to schooltransportteam@durham.gov.uk; or contact your local County Councillor.

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Other treatments available include electrolysis and waxing. For a FREE TRIAL without obligation please call the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234.

CAMPAIGN TO STUB OUT CIGARETTE LITTER

Council wardens and civic pride officers will be cracking down on a major problem in our area.

High profile patrols, teams of neighbourhood wardens and civic pride officers will be tackling the specific issue of cigarette litter.

Anyone seen dropping their cigarette ends will be reminded to stub it out and bin it instead and handed a 'stubby' to help them do just that.

Stubbis are small pocket-sized reusable ashtrays which can be safely used to put out cigarettes before they are placed in a bin. The public will also be reminded that dropping cigarette butts is an offence which could earn them a fine.

Richie Brown, neighbourhood warden co-ordinator (south) said: "Throwing away a cigarette end is the same offence as dropping any other type of litter and attracts a fixed penalty notice of £80."

"However, millions of cigarette butts are discarded throughout the county every year. They are a pollutant to the environment and are costly to remove."

Lights Stolen from Grave

Who would steal solar lights from a baby's grave? This is the question the distraught Mother of Lily, a baby girl buried at West Cemetery, asked Newton News this week.

Nicola Clough lost her baby at only 1½ hours old last October and placed seven solar lights around her grave.

Last weekend she visited the grave to find all but one had been stolen and was so upset she rang the Editor.

We sympathised with Nicola as that was all we could do and we both came to the conclusion that the despicable people responsible had no conscience.

We report this incident knowing other graves have solar lights on them and relatives should be aware we have people of this kind living in the area.

CHILDREN'S HOWLERS
In Scandinavia, the Danish people come from Denmark, the Norwegians come from Norway and the Laplanders come from Lapland.

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 Thursday 21st April - Easter Issue
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 Thursday 28th April - Royal Wedding Issue
 Deadline: Tuesday 26th April
 Friday 6th May - Back to Normal
 Deadline: Wednesday 3rd May
 Please be aware of the opening times below and deadline times above to ensure your advert is placed on time and in the correct issue
 Advertisements can be placed at our agents:
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Time to Promote Newton Aycliffe's Assets

Dear Sir,
Great Aycliffe should be grateful of it's positive promotion provided by the Newton News. And, now, the potential for sparkling publicity from the Hitachi decision needs to highlight all that is good and wholesome about our town. For far too long Great Aycliffe was made to feel guilty about our assets and achievement by others demanding distribution of those assets to provide facilities in their own older areas. Now we need to proclaim and promote them to give this town a name to be

proud of. Three Golf Courses, three Sports and Leisure facilities, Swimming Pool and Fitness Suite. Acres of clean green open spaces. A new Youth Centre, Town Park and Gardens, Great Aycliffe Way, an up-market Business Park, Regional transport links, Matured, high value housing in pleasant surroundings. Manicured Parks and many Social Clubs, Village style Community Centres and our Churches, the new Xcel Centre, progressive Education and Sporting facilities.

Other townships in South Durham would be delighted to promote themselves had they the assets and achievements Great Aycliffe has. We need to push on, to promote and publicise our assets and achievements. Our social, cultural, sport and leisure provision. And let those envious of that, work as hard as we did to create and develop that achievement from muddy fields here in Aycliffe. I've no doubt, as always, Newton News will be with us all the way.
Don Fraser
Woodham

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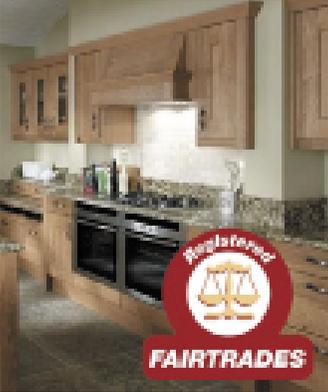


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE REDUCED FOR ELDERLY

Dear Sir,
I understand the winter fuel allowance for the elderly has been reduced for the over 60's to £200 and for the over 80's to £300. In a time of ever increasing prices this must be a bitter blow for those who need to keep warm and are now afraid to put on their central heating. The yearly tax-free payment to help people pay for their heating in the winter was worth £250 for the over 60s and £400 for the over 80s.
J. M. Gowland
Heighington

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LETTER

Cat Dirt as Bad as Dogs!

Dear Sir,
I can't let my granddaughter play out in the garden because of cat dirt and the problem is just as bad as dogs. My front garden has become a toilet for cats! Dog owners clean up after their dogs when they are out, doing their bit to help the environment, as well as keeping children free from disease! Inconsiderate cat owners really don't care where their cats foul and are just let out the house to wander where they will. I believe cat owners should provide a cat tray in their garden.
Mrs. P., Rowan Place.

COUNCIL CAN'T INTERFERE WITH BUSINESS

Dear Sir,
I found the 'Questions' letter last week very hard to respond to, because it is difficult to 'debate' what was in essence a string of accusations. 'Name and Address Supplied' would do better to join the 200+ members of the Newton Aycliffe Labour Group of Branches facebook group, where he will be encouraged to share his criticisms, and obtain responses from people of a wide range of political persuasions. As regards the many points the letter raised, most of them have already been addressed in the Newton News. The Town Councillors, for example, have already considered - and I reported in the Newton News - their response to the allowances issue. By far the most interesting issue raised was about TESCO's fuel prices. But whilst it might seem reasonable to ask Councillors to voice the popular outrage, if the Town Council were to arrogate the right to interfere in the pricing policy of ALL the businesses of the Town, I suspect the Town Council would very rapidly be told where to go! Finally, I do wish I could persuade correspondents that it is not necessary to abuse Councillors when they write letters. Let's debate, by all means, but let's be polite.
John Clare

Concern Over Use of Shafto House

Dear Sir
I have just witnessed a local businessman being shown around Shafto House Care Home by a member of the Council. This man runs Hope House for drug and alcohol dependant young people and confirmed he was in the process of making a bid for the property for just such a use. My property

backs on to these premises and am appalled that the Council can even think of offering the building to be used for what amounts to be a half way house before consulting the residents in the surrounding areas. Perhaps the business man concerned would like these people in his area instead?
Jim Cherrie, Greathead Crescent

REPLY FROM ROCSOLID, HOPE HOUSE

Dear Sir,
Hope House is home to several businesses and to ROCSOLID, a supported housing charity. The charity was started more than three years ago to help some of society's most vulnerable young people - foster care leavers - progress towards successful independent living. National statistics show that many looked after children fail to reach their full potential in adulthood, often because they are damaged through things which they have experienced, such as abuse or neglect. Also, it was not uncommon for 16-year-olds to end up alone in very poor quality bed and breakfast houses, roaming the streets in daytime and often developing drug and substance misuse habits. Worryingly, they were susceptible to falling prey to unscrupulous adults. As directors of Reach Out Care Fostering Services, we launched ROCSOLID to give these young people one-on-one support and create a safe place for them to grow into independence. Most young people are referred to us by social services departments across the region and full risk assessments are completed. All of our policies and procedures have been ratified by local authority commissioners. Current residents include young people at risk of

homelessness, those with physical, learning and mental health issues and young parents and babies. Others are simply transitioning from fostering or residential care and want to develop independent living skills. They all undertake to take part in training, employment or education as part of their license agreements. CAVOS has helped them form a properly constituted group called the Young Hopefuls and they take part in fund raising activities, litter picks and have contributed towards us achieving Investors in Children accreditation. Many of the former and present ROCSOLID young people are now leading successful lives. One is taking exams which will enable her to start university and become a social worker; another, who was fleeing an abusive relationship, now lives safely in the local community with her child and she continues to be part of the Young Hopefuls. We worked alongside social services to help one young dad learn how to parent his baby. As a result he now has a residence order for the child and lives in one of our move-on satellite houses in the local community. In the next few weeks he will become a tenant in his own right and he wants to become a peer mentor within the project to help other young people. In this instance ROCSOLID

actually helped prevent a young child entering the care system. Our work is widely acknowledged as being effective. Indeed, two weeks ago we won a tender to work with a local authority in Teesside and were ranked joint first out of 73 applicants. However, the project is full and there is a waiting list. Much-needed new legislation means demand is growing - from 1 April this year, it became unlawful for local authorities to place under 18s in bed and breakfast accommodation. We are also seeing increased need for supported accommodation for young people with learning difficulties. To help meet these needs we want to expand our services and we are therefore looking for suitable premises, hence our exploratory visit to Shafto House. On a personal note, our former home in Sunderland was only a few hundred yards away from Doxford House. When the Lazarus Foundation applied to the council to use this as a rehab centre for drug addicts and alcoholics, we fully supported the application. We maintained that such a centre had to be on someone's doorstep, so why not ours? DoI and Derek Butler Directors, Reach Out Care

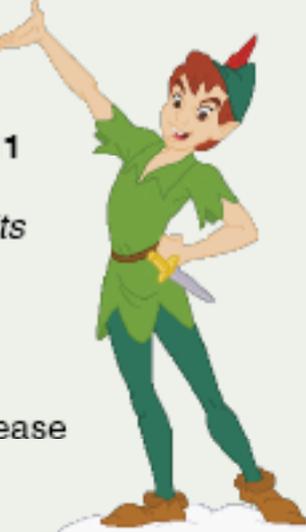
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Death of Popular Town Photographer

Former Town Photographer Sonny Steel died on 25th March aged 81, and after a Funeral Service in St. Clare's Church was cremated at Darlington.



His family came from Houghton-le-Spring area and Sonny was a lifelong Sunderland supporter. He started his National Service in 1950, and spent much of his two year period playing football for the Army. He was a talented footballer and on the books for Aldershot and Sheffield United.

A recurring foot injury ended a promising career. and as photography had been an interest, it then became a passion and a career. He was a freelance photographer for the Northern Echo and as Newton Aycliffe grew in size, Sonny became known as the town's photographer. One of his career highs was in Malta, where he did

much high-profile work, photographing important dignitaries in the former colony returning there often. Here he was successful in obtaining the contract to photograph Prince Charles when he opened the Oak Leaf Leisure Centre. Sonny settled in Newton Aycliffe, but failing eyesight brought his career to a close. He spent his final years living in Clarence Chare. He will be much missed by his family and friends.

CLUB INSTALLS SECURITY SYSTEM

Newton Aycliffe Sports Club has installed a brand new state-of-the-art security set-up at their rapidly-improving clubhouse.

The club, which has spent more than £50,000 over the last four years on developments, has forked out a further £3,000 on the new CCTV system.

A total of 11 cameras have been fitted up to now, covering 95% of the main building and nearby grounds, with a further five cameras to follow which will give full coverage.

Two monitors, one behind the bar and the other in the office, also mean there'll always be someone keeping an eye on things.

It's part of the club's ongoing commitment to continually improve facilities for its members.

Secretary Pat Flynn, pictured, said: "The main aim of the new security system is simply to protect the club from vandalism and any threat of break-ins."

"The cameras have already picked up evidence of two youths who were committing criminal damage and



threatening behavior.

"The club will exercise a zero tolerance policy to anyone causing damage or threatening behaviour, inside or within the club's grounds, and will prosecute those responsible."

"It also gives our members added peace of mind. On the very rare occasion of incidents within the club premises, TV evidence will prove conclusive, as opposed to one word against another's."

The Sports Club saw its membership numbers

surpass the 1,000-mark last year following an extensive three-year refurbishment programme.

And treasurer Dennis Henderson says this £3,000 pull-out is a sound investment by the club.

"It only further enhances the club generally, for our members to enjoy," he said.

"It's to benefit the members and reward them for their loyalty to the club who make these refurbishments possible with their support."

"We're a forward-thinking committee and we're investing in the club now for its future and for the benefit of our members."

Subscriptions are due throughout the month of

April, with renewals costing just £5 for the year and new cards costing £7. Juniors cost 50p and OAPs are free, unless they require a vote at the club's AGM.

Members can renew or take out new cards during the following times: 7.30-9pm Mondays, 7.30-9pm Thursdays, 7.30-9pm Fridays, 1-3pm Saturdays and 12-1pm Sundays. www.aycliffe-sports-club.org.uk

EXPERIENCING THE SOUND OF AFRICA



Students from Woodham Community Technology College were able to experience an African performance Workshop at The Sage, Gateshead last week. A group of year 9 students travelled to The Sage in order to take part in an African Drumming workshop.

The 20 students, who are studying GCSE Music, were all given the chance

to perform together using traditional African djembe drums.

All found it a worthwhile experience. Student William Kirton spoke of his opinions of the day: "I enjoyed the chance to perform as part of a large group, and it was interesting to learn about the culture and history behind some of the different rhythms used in African music."

Easter Egg Appeal

Co-operative Funeralcare is appealing for donations of Easter Eggs again this year. Following the huge success of last year's appeal all donations received will be shared between the children of women at local women's aid refuges and local learning disability groups.

Eggs will be gratefully received at the Newton Aycliffe office in Macmillan Road and at all local offices until Monday April 18th to be distributed in time for Easter.

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COLLEGE WINS LEAGUE TITLE



Bishop Auckland College's over 18 football team have won the North East Colleges' League 2011. This is a fantastic achievement for the College as the team competed against many larger colleges. Three of the team are old boys of Greenfield School: Liam Bingham, Andrew Sowerby and Damien Whitaker. Sports Lecturer Andrew Dixon said "This is the first time we have won the league, it has been running eight years now and the lads are very happy that their hard work in games and in training has been rewarded. The league has been very competitive this year and winning it has been a very nice way for some students to finish their college education".

Anyone interested in studying a sports course and improving their football skills please contact Bishop Auckland College's Client Services Team on Freephone 08000 926 506.

Photo: Back left to right: Iain Leckie (Sports Lecturer) Andrew Dixon (Sports Lecturer) Damien Whitaker, Josh Ridley, Sean Carr, Johnny Younghusband, Nathan Phillips, Andrew Sowerby, Nick Appleton (Coach) Kevin Hodgson (Coach) and Steve Wood (Team Physiotherapist)

Front left to right: Michael Condron, Yannick Ayemou, Decklin Moss, Johnny Burgess, Liam Bingham, Adrian Adamson, John Taylor

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BISHOP AUCKLAND	14	10	3	1	63	24	39	33
GATESHEAD	12	7	3	2	47	21	26	24
NEWCASTLE	13	8	0	5	46	32	14	24
SUNDERLAND	10	6	2	2	46	21	25	20
DERWENTSIDE	11	4	1	6	19	43	-24	13
EAST DURHAM	13	3	4	6	22	36	-14	13
TYNE MET	12	2	1	9	18	34	-16	7
DARLINGTON	11	1	0	10	14	64	-50	3

Good Support for International Football Tournament

Honest John's Fundraising stall has donated £1000 to the Under 18's Mini World Cup Tournament to be held in Newton Aycliffe this Summer organised by Kath Sowerby, Secretary of the club.

This exceptional young lady is working hard to bring this event to the town, obtaining cash and sponsorship from various sources including the Rotary Club and the Town Council. She is to be congratulated on her efforts and deserves all the support she is getting.

Honest John thanks all those Newtonians who donate goods for him to sell on his stall, making it possible to help people like Kath help worthwhile causes in Newton Aycliffe.

Calling All Town Organisations, Groups and Sports Clubs

Update your FREE entry in the Newton Aycliffe Town Guide

Newton Press is revising the official Town Guide produced in co-operation with the Great Aycliffe Town Council. As in past issues, the publication will give comprehensive information relating to Newton Aycliffe and the immediate district, including an A-Z of the Business Park. The Guide will come with a street map of Newton Aycliffe. In an effort to help Town Organisations recruit more members, they may include details of their club, group or service FREE OF CHARGE.

(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS - Copy required by March 31st 2011)

Name of Organisation

Contact Name

Contact Telephone

Contact Email

Website Address

Contact Address

Meeting Day

Meeting Time

Meeting Venue

Brief description of Activities

Please hand your completed form in at our agents:
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEW GUIDE PLEASE CONTACT PAUL HOWARTH - 300212

LOCAL SPORT

SCUBA DIVE FREE

Following the success of their recent free 'Try A Dive Nights' Aycliffe Sub Aqua Club have decided to extend the availability of these sessions into both April and May 2011.

Thanks to funding provided through GAMP and other local sources the sessions will continue to be FREE to anyone who wants to come along and have a go at SCUBA DIVING.

Whilst being designed to attract new members to the club the sessions are also a great way of introducing more people to the wonders of the under water world.

The club would also like to take the opportunity to invite anyone who has dived before (linked to other associations PADI / BSAC / CMAS) to make contact with them with a view to also coming along to see about joining the club.

As has been previously reported, the club has had a very successful 12 months



and is now eagerly awaiting the results of the Sub Aqua Associations National Golden Club Award for which it has been nominated.

These 'Try A Dive' sessions will be held in the swimming pool at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Thursday Evening between 9 to 10pm. Anyone aged 17 to 70 with an interest in SCUBA Diving will be made more than welcome. Certain constraints may apply and anyone interested in booking one of the FREE sessions should contact either Steve on 07837 096791 or Paul on 07968 217425.

Fitness Swimming for the Over 40's

When was the last time you thought about going for a swim? 'Swim Active' is a new way to start swimming and stay swimming in County Durham.

As from the 11th April for those aged 40-74 years the new 'Swim Active' programme in selected pools across the county is looking to encourage people to take to the water with a 12 week programme of aquatic activities.

The 'Swim Active' project has been developed by the A.S.A (Amateur Swimming Association) North East region as part of a drive to increase the number of people swimming in the region. Durham County Council and Leisureworks Trust who operate pools in the County are ready to welcome new swimmers into Chester-le-St, Newton Aycliffe, Woodhouse Close, Spennymoor Leisure Centres, The Louisa Centre and Belle Vue Swim Centre.

'Swimming pools are great places to work out, socialise and relax and that's why swimming really does contribute to improving peoples well general being. Working with our partners the Swim Active project will give people in County Durham the opportunity to experience the benefits of swimming for themselves' Ian Gardiner, A.S.A. Regional Director Returning to the swimming pool for some people will be a big step and this project will

provide additional support with Aquatic Leaders available on poolside during a variety of sessions to offer a welcome, guidance and encouragement. Activities to look out for include; Aqua fitness classes which provide exercise in the water which increases stamina, strength and flexibility, and are great for people who want a low impact exercise.

Lane swimming is a perfect way to swim and get fit whatever your ability and a great place for undertaking a SwimFit programme. Many of the pools have dedicated sessions such as Women only, Adult only, 50+ sessions.

Anyone aged 40-74 years can register at a participating pool and qualify to be part of 'Swim Active' and access the benefits of the scheme. People will be asked a few simple health related questions as part of the check to see if they are eligible, if they are not they can still join in all the activities including 'Swim Active' supported sessions at their local pool just without some of the additional 'Swim Active' benefits.

There's a Swim Active' Welcome Pack for all those registered and participants can visit the pool as many times as they like in a 12 week period only paying £2.10 no matter what activity they take part in. At the end of the 12 weeks everyone will receive a Graduation pack with great

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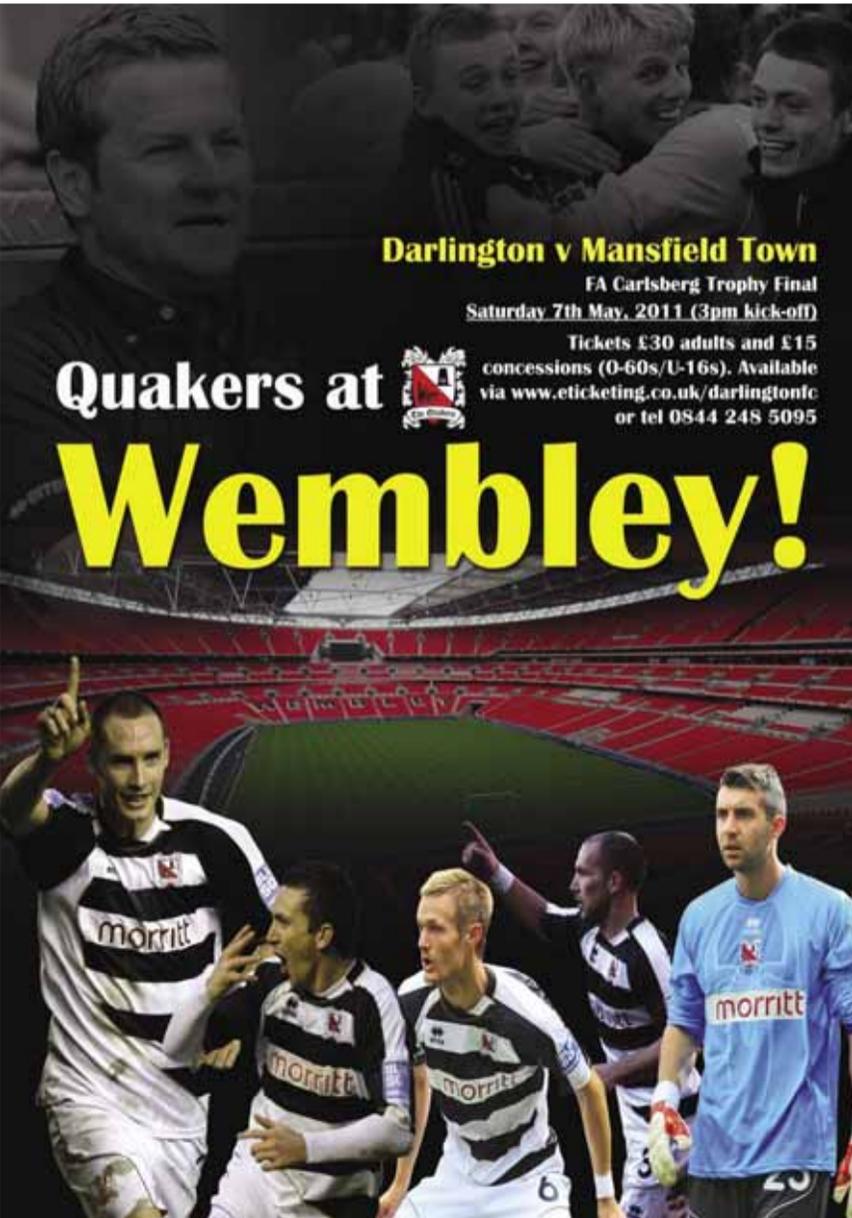
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The Electoral Commission, the independent elections and referendum watchdog, is launching a nationwide public awareness campaign today ahead of a big day for voters on Thursday 5 May. On polling day this year

there will be elections to devolved legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and local elections in England and Northern Ireland. There will also be a referendum on the voting system used to elect MP's.

The Commission is sending out 27.8 million information booklets on the referendum and elections - one to every

UK household. This will be supported by an advertising campaign on television and radio, that was launched on Friday 1 April.

Developed with the help of academics, research with voters and plain language experts, the booklet includes descriptions of both the First Past the Post and Alternate Vote systems, the question voters will be asked in the referendum, and information on how to cast your vote.

Clinton Proud, Head of Campaigns at the Electoral Commission says: "Thursday 5 May is a big day for voters, with elections across the UK and a referendum on the same day. We're sending every household in the country a booklet to give voters the information they need to have their say on 5 May. Look out for the booklet

dropping through your door from next week or get one from our website, www.aboutmyvote.co.uk."

Voters have until 14 April to make sure they are on the electoral register and can have their say. Voters can cast their vote in person at polling stations on Thursday 5 May, or by applying to vote by post or proxy. Forms to register to vote, apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote, can all be found on the Commission's website: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or by calling the Commission's information line on 0800 3 280 280.

CONNECTING THE COUNTY'S CLASSROOMS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

Celebrations are on the timetable at schools that have been successful in their application to join the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme. These include Aycliffe Village Primary and Greenfield Arts College.

A regional event will be held at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Wednesday, 30 March, to bring together the North East schools involved, including 14 from County Durham.

In addition to exhibiting their individual work, all 200 attendees will take part in a specially produced Sri Lankan keep-fit DVD and intercultural workshops reflecting customs from the Middle East, South East Asia and South America.

One of the day's highlights will be a screening of a film produced by the Royal Jordanian Film Commission of the work undertaken by County Durham and Jordanian schoolchildren, featuring shots of our

pupils meeting the King of Jordan.

On hand to open the afternoon session is Chairman of Durham County Council, Cllr Mac Williams JP, he said: "The event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase some of the exciting work our young people have been involved in at an international level."

"The Connecting Classrooms programme aims to forge closer links and build greater understanding between the UK and other countries. In the current climate, the need for our young people to be aware of global interdependence and their role as citizens of the world is ever greater."

The day, organised by the ATLAS group - a consortium of the region's 12 local authorities and coordinated by Durham County Council's international relations team, will also be used as a platform to launch a new

British Council teaching resource called Global Eyes, designed to support teaching and learning about globalisation.

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

Lost & Found

CAT STILL MISSING, since the morning of 15th March. Black and white named Rory. Could you have taken him in thinking he was a stray. He is a much loved family member. Any information would be gratefully received, good or bad news as we can't stop looking until we know what's happened to our beautiful cat. Please contact 07999 304 078. Thank you for the many calls already received.

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Lost & Found

A PAIR OF men's black "Specsavers" spectacles have been found in Bluebell Meadows. They have been handed in to Specsavers in the Town Centre.

Thank You

DIANE & GLYNN COLLIER would like to thank family and friends for their lovely cards and gifts and for making their Silver Wedding Anniversary so special.

JUNE, BRENDA and family of the late Edna Carr thank everyone for cards and sympathy at the loss of our Mother. Your kindness is much appreciated. A special thank you to Leigh and Jessica from John Meynell Funeral Directors for their support, compassion and help over a very difficult week, you made things easier to deal with, once again, thanks to you both.

In Memoriam

MIRIAM ROSSITER 8th April 2004. You are always in our hearts and thoughts Mam. We miss you so much. Love always Lesley and Tony xxx

HARBOTTLE, TOMMY. Died 7th April 2005. Sadly missed since you went from our lives, but happy memories remain in our hearts each day. Your laughter and smiles will live on, forever. Gladys, Vera, Lavina and Andy x

MADDISON, CAROL. Mam, Nanna, Great Nanna, passed away 3rd April 2011. To a very special lady who battled great illness, yet retained her grace and dignity throughout. A true Angel, in God's care. You will be with us forever, in our hearts and minds. Love eternal, Alan, Lisa, Bethany, Charlie, Ashleigh and Paige xxx

McLUCKIE. 10.4.02. Dear Ann, To heaven's garden I often wander, where your face I gently touch and tell you that we love you so very very much. Love from Mam, Tony and family. Also Dear Fred, 14.4.98. Husband, Dad and Grandpa

JOSEPH HEDLEY. Another year has gone by since the day we said goodbye, without you things are not the same, but our memories forever remain. We miss you so much Dad. Love, Ann, Grace, Keith, John and Ruth x

ALEXANDER HUMBLE. Absence makes the heart grow fonder, I know now that it's true, for even after 19 years, we're still missing you. Audrey and family

FOUR YEARS has gone by, my love for you will never die, I think about you every day, the pain in my heart will never go away. Your loving Wife, Grace xxx miss you

Congratulations

COLIN WHITE - 60. Happy 60th birthday Col, with all my love and best wishes from Joan xxx

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SON. 60 on 8th April 2011. All my love from Mam xxx

BEST WISHES on your 60th birthday. Love from Sheila and Kasey xxx

Childminder

CHILDMINDER in Newton Aycliffe has vacancies for the end of April, 0 years - 11 years Tel: 07729 775 802

Obituary

MADDISON (nee FREEMAN) CAROL ANN Beloved Wife, Mam, Nanna, Great Nana, Sister and Aunt. After a long illness, passed away peacefully on Sunday 3rd April. All are welcome to attend the Service at St. Clare's Church, 10am Wednesday 13th April. Floral tributes to, Co-operative Funeral Service, Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe.

LAWSON, Elizabeth (Betty) of Newton Aycliffe. Passed away peacefully on April 4th 2011 aged 83 years. Loving Wife, Mam and Grandma. Family and friends please meet for Service at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Wednesday April 13th for 3pm. Followed by private family cremation.

FARMER, JOHN On April 2nd after a brave fight, peacefully at home of Newton Aycliffe, formerly of Witton Park. John Robert aged 67 years, beloved Husband to Mary, a much loved Father of Paula and David, Father-in-law to Brett and devoted Grandad to Jack and Harry, also a loving Brother and Son-in-Law Harriet. Funeral on Tuesday, April 12th. Will friends please meet at 12.30pm for Service in Witton Park Methodist Chapel, followed by interment in Witton Park Cemetery. Family flowers only.

Birthday Remembrance

SANDRA ANN FARRELL Died 8th November 2001. Born on 3rd April 1965. We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain. To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again. Sadly missed, always remembered and loved very much. Your loving Mum, Dad, Sister Helen, Nieces Laura and Millie xxxx "You are a star birthday girl"

KEITH WILSON 1st April 1950. No cards or presents to give today, just precious memories of someone we miss so much. Love you always, Anna, Julie, Helen, Louise, James and all the family

CHARLIE LADBURY
10th April 2011

Congratulations on your 18th birthday Charlie. Have a fantastic weekend. Love you loads, Mam, Dad, Chloe and Jamie xxxx

Charlie Ladbury
April 10th

Best wishes Charlie on your 18th birthday. Lots of love, Nanna, Michael, Uncle Dougie and Alex xxxx

Happy 18th birthday Charlie. Lots of love from Uncle Stuart, Auntie Julie and Hannah xxx

Tom Smith



Happy 18th Birthday! Have a great day Tom with love from Mam, Dad and all the family xxx

Maud Gray



Happy Birthday 12th April 2011

Congratulations on your Birthday, don't worry we all know just how old you are, lots of love always George xxx

Happy Birthday Mam, hope you have a great day, lots of love Julie and Terry.

Happy Birthday Nana, hope you have a lovely day, lots of love Dan and Adam xxx

Congratulations on your Birthday have a wonderful day lots of love from George, Barbara and Steph xxx

Happy Birthday to a very Special Mam. Hope you have a fabulous day, lots of love always and forever, Jo and Andy xxx

Beccie



Happy 21st Birthday Mummy
All my love, Rhyley xx

To Our Beccie
All the love for your 21st. All our love, Ma and Pa x

To My Big Sis
Have a lovely 21st. Luv from Rory x

Happy 21st Tresh
All our love, Nana and Andax

Happy 21st Birthday
Love from Uncle Stevie and Emma

William & Lynn Lowery



Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary
10th April 2011

SYLVIA SPENSLEY Happy birthday. Love you so much. Love, Eddie (Vic) xxx

Mia Wilson



Well done Mia for winning at Blackpool. We are so proud of you. Lots of love, all your family xxxx Big thanks to Hayley and Brenda xxx

CONGRATULATIONS to Rebeka (Bekki) Marshall for successfully auditioning and gaining a place in both WAC London and SLP Leeds on the 3rd year National Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre. A big thanks to all at 'Pierremont School of Dance' throughout the years, especially Jayne Summerbell and Vocal Coach Mrs Karin Carter. Darling Bekki, be all you can be and live your dreams. Mam, Dad, Rachie and Duke and all your family are all so proud of you xxxx

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to our beautiful Daughter on your 21st birthday. Lots of love from Mam & Dad xxx

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Golden Birthdays
on 1st Jan
Mam, Dad, Gra

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We are currently working on an archive site which will bring you ALL the past issues of the Newton News as far back as 1948!

PIPPED AT THE POST! WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

Sedgefield Water Polo Club came agonisingly close to being National Champions for the 4th time at the recent National Boys under 15 Championships in the Aquatic Centre in Manchester.



They were drawn in the toughest group which included first seeded team Manchester in their home pool and Sheffield number 3 seeds. Sedgefield were unseeded as they haven't been in the National Champs since 2008.

Sedgefield played Manchester first and knew they had to beat the first seeded team as only the winners of the group went to the final. Sedgefield started slowly and went behind but goals from Josh Barrett put Sedgefield in front 2-1 at half time.

In the second half Sedgefield managed to stay in front, but with just over a minute to go Sedgefield conceded 2 goals due to some slack defence to go behind 5-4. With 10 seconds to go on the clock Joe Barker equalised to leave the final score at 5-5.

period of play. It looked bleak for Sedgefield hopes when Sheffield were awarded a controversial penalty but Sedgefield goalkeeper Richie Howe made a great save to keep Sedgefield in the game. Sedgefield went straight down the pool and Josh Barrett equalised. More great saves from Howe kept Sedgefield level and with time running out John Pratt scored a great long range effort to clinch a 2-1 win for Sedgefield.

This draw meant that Sedgefield had to defeat the other 3 teams in the group to have a chance to reach the final. They played Croydon from South London next and were comfortable 8-2 winners with the goals being shared with Josh Barrett and Joe Barker.

Sedgefield's last game was against local team Durham which Sedgefield cruised to a 17-3 with Jake Plant 11 scoring 3 goals on his debut at this level.

The next game was against Champions Sheffield. A game Sedgefield had to win as Manchester had defeated them 4-0. Sedgefield were 1-0 down at half time after an ineffective

because they had the better result against Sheffield. It was even more frustrating for Sedgefield when Manchester easily defeated the second seeded team Birmingham in the Final 10-5. However it was a great performance once again by Sedgefield against all the big city clubs with their state of the art deep pools, while Sedgefield use shallow pools which isn't conducive to playing in all deep pools in all Championships.

Sedgefield's player of the tournament was Josh Barrett with 14 goals and Richie Howe in goal played very well. The other members of the Sedgefield Team were James and John Pratt, Joe Barker, Alex Miller, Adam Courtley, Jake Plant, Sam Dixon, Dean Akister, Ben Turnbull, Zak Lamb and Jordan Titley.

LOCAL SPORT

More Local Sport on Page 11



Newton Aycliffe sealed an historic league title at Moore Lane Park last weekend before being inundated with messages of congratulations.

Aycliffe's 2-2 draw at home to Chester-le-Street was enough to seal the second division championship in only their second season in the Northern League.

The league will present the Newtonians with the title silverware after their home game with Birtley Town at Moore Lane Park next Saturday (April 16, 3pm kick-off).

League chairman Mike Amos was the first to offer his congratulations this week, while famous Newtonians Ross Turnbull and Jason Steele also praised the club.

Former Middlesbrough goalkeeper Turnbull, now with London giants Chelsea, went to Woodham College with Aycliffe skipper Sean Tarling and they played in the same Aycliffe youth team together.

The 26-year-old said: "It's fantastic that they've won the league and done it so convincingly.

"It's an achievement everyone involved can be proud of, and it's great for the whole town.

"It's a great set-up at Moore Lane. They've made lots of progress in the last few years but there's no reason they can't push on again and enjoy it in the first division next year."

Meanwhile, Boro goalkeeper Steele, also a Newtonian, said: "I was proud to hear they'd done it, credit has to go to Gary Farley, Brian Atkinson and obviously the manager, Allan Oliver, for what they've achieved in such a short space of time.

"I know a few of the lads and I'm really chuffed for all of them. I get to as many games as I can, I've been to about four or five this season and what's surprised me has been the quality of

football.

"You expect to see a lot of direct football at that level, but I've been pleased to see Aycliffe get the ball down and play. I'm sure Brian Atkinson has a lot to do with that and it's good to see a footballing philosophy paying off for them.

"Hopefully they can now go on to bigger and better things."

Meanwhile, in a warm letter of congratulations from Mike Amos, the Northern League chairman said: "I'd like to congratulate Aycliffe on this magnificent achievement after just two years membership.

"It seemed from the outset, in 2009, that Newton Aycliffe would be worthy members - both on and off the field - and so it has proved.

"Everything you have done has brought credit to the club and to the league, not least in the way that all concerned have handled themselves and gone about their business, and we greatly look forward to that continuing. Already Aycliffe feel like old friends.

"I send warm congratulations not just to my old friend Mr Oliver and his team but also to Gary and all those who've planned and

a 2-2 draw at home to form side Chester-le-Street last week, but Guisborough's 2-1 defeat at home to Marske United secured Aycliffe's title, sparking wild celebrations on the pitch.

The club are now expecting another bumper crowd when the league come to deliver the trophy to Moore Lane Park next weekend.

LAST FEW FIXTURES
Saturday 16th April:
 Birtley Town (H), 3pm
Saturday 23rd April:
 Thornaby (H), 3pm
Monday 25th April:
 Tm Northumbria (A), 3pm
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