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Royal Recognition of Aycliffe Firm's 25th Anniversary

Roman Achievements Receive Royal Approval

Roman, the UK's leading shower designer and manufacturer celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with a visit from HRH The Earl of Wessex KG KCVO.

The celebrations took place at Roman's Newton Aycliffe Headquarters on Thursday 14th April and His Royal Highness was formally welcomed by Chairman Gerald Osborne.

Civic dignitaries, the MP, key trade and local press

including Newton News joined the celebrations. Guests were given a showroom and factory tour, and also an insight into Roman's operational and design processes.

Roman has gone from strength to strength since it was initially founded in 1985 by Gerald Osborne. He launched his first range of multi coloured bath screens matching the bathroom colours of the time. Since then Roman have diversified into many other areas and in 2001 a £1.2million factory extension was opened by Prime Minister, Tony Blair. To add flexibility to their research and development and to ensure control of their tray supply, Roman opened a Tray Plant in 2005 to manufacture solid surface level access trays. In July 2009, they launched "Roman at Home" a collection of bathroom and home accessories which has been a great success and is continuing to grow as the Brand awareness increases.

Roman remains a family owned business and is now the largest UK shower manufacturing facility employing over 150 staff across two sites in County Durham and Daventry.

The Prince was very interested in Roman's success over 25 years and took the opportunity to talk to staff during his tour of the factory.

Gerald Osborne said "We are exceptionally proud to have a member of the Royal Family come and share this 25 year milestone with us". After unveiling the plaque commemorating his visit and Roman's 25th Anniversary The Prince thanked everyone for their warm welcome and wished the company continued success hoping he would be around for their 50th celebrations. Jemimah and Matthew Osborne, the children of Managing Director David, presented the Prince with a landscape painting. They were thrilled to be part of the ceremony and played their part admirably.



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Saturday 30th April - to be confirmed
Saturday 7th May - "WITCHKRAFT"
'The first set was a good mix of well known songs from Montrose, Jethro Tull, Golden Earring, Free and ACDC. Second set was Deep Purple as this is their trade mark. Cliff on drums (ex white Noise) and Gaz on bass have created a really tight and punchy rhythm section. Mr. Big was excellent, really showing off Gaz's skills. John on vocals, was suffering with a chest infection but it didn't stop him delivering, with a good, high and gritty rock vocal. Mal...s Mal. Looks and plays like Blackmore, has all the moves and the sound of Mr. B, but can also show he's really good at the other stuff as well. All in all it was a good show, good crowd, nice choice of rock classics mixed with the best of Purple.' - jarekmac - Review
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NEWTON AYCLIFFE SCOUTS SUPPORTER AND
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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 extension 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 Hallgards Hotel - 1 Holiday
Service from Bluebell Way Valuing Garage - 2 Tickets to Ruff 'n' Tumble, 2 Hours General
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Saturday, 23rd April

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Saturday, 23rd April

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SCHOOL HISTORY CLUB WANT TO MEET UNSUNG WAR HEROES



The award winning History Club at Stephenson Way Community Primary School are looking for unsung heroes of World War 2 to interview. Every year they enter the Normandy Veterans Association 'Spirit of Normandy' competition and have decided that this year they would like to make their project about local people who supported the war effort on the home front. Railway and munitions workers, ARP wardens, local defence volunteers, nurses etc. If you were one or have any information that you would like to share with the children please contact either Mrs Linda Hatfield or Mrs Lynn Defty at the school on 01325 300324 as soon as possible.

FANTASTIC WEEKEND AT THE LEGION

The "Legion" has a packed week-end of activities so why not join us on Saturday night, 23rd April to celebrate St. George's Day? The fantastic "Razamataz" plus Georgio will entertain you along with Ian's Karaoke. Entrance is FREE and starts at 12.45pm. On Easter Sunday Ian's Karaoke again and an Easter Egg Competition from 2 till 4pm. You can either paint or decorate your entry. Prizes will be awarded. To top your weekend off on Monday, Ian's Karaoke, Egg Jarvin Contest, Bingo and Domino Handicap from 12 till 4pm. All Members and bona-fide guests welcome.

COULD YOU BE AN ARRIVA AMBUSSADOR?

Bus users in Newton-Aycliffe are being offered the chance to become one of just 40 Ambassadors across the UK as part of a new official quality control team being launched by bus company Arriva. Arriva North East's Ambassadors will receive a free, 4-Weekly Saver ticket and will be tasked with rating their overall bus experience and, specifically, Arriva's award winning m-ticketing technology. More than half a million journeys have now been made using m-tickets on Arriva buses. The bus company, which runs a range of services in and around Newton-Aycliffe, launched mobile ticketing to allow bus users to buy Day Savers, Weekly Savers and 4-Weekly Savers on their phone at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This month, the ticket range has been extended to include Student and Annual Savers as well. John Fozzard, marketing manager for Arriva North East, said: "Since the launch of m-ticketing we have seen a steady increase in the number of customers choosing to use their phone to purchase tickets. All customers have to do is visit www.arrivabus.co.uk/ambassadors and complete the quick and easy registration process, during which the m-ticket application is downloaded to their phone." As well as being quick and easy m-ticketing is twice as secure as typical online transactions. To find out more about Arriva's range of tickets and services, including m-ticketing, or to apply to be an Ambassador people should visit www.arrivabus.co.uk/ambassadors. The deadline for entries is Sunday 1st May.

Meal for the Governors



The cookery Club at St. Joseph's RC Primary School invited the Governors to sample some of the recipes they have used at their cooking sessions. On Tuesday 8th of March, six pupils from year 6 made a three course meal and served it to eleven of the Governors. They served carrot and coriander soup with wholemeal bread, chicken stir-fry or vegetable stir-fry accompanied by potato wedges and salad, and a sumptuous chocolate fondue with a delightful array of fruits and nibbles to dip into it. The children used one cookery session for preparing, and then were really excited to be serving the Governors the following day. They set the table and researched the

correct way to serve people and learned how to fold napkins. They prepared mini menus and had flowers to decorate the table. Everything went really smoothly and the year 6 children did really well. Mrs. Buglass and Mrs. Ryans, the Cookery Club leaders were really impressed and proud of the children. One Governor was heard to say, 'That was the best vegetable stir-fry I have ever had!' A big thanks has to go to the children themselves for giving up two nights after school, to Mrs. Ryans and Mrs. Alexander for their help and support and to the Governors who gave up their time to support the Cookery Club in their venture. Everyone is looking forward to their next event which is likely to be an afternoon tea.

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Good Friday 10-4pm, Saturday 9-4pm
Sunday 10-3pm, Easter Monday 10-4pm

Police Respond to Drinking and Anti-Social Behaviour



Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police Team has set up an operation across the town in response to community concerns; addressing the anti-social behaviour that has been created as a result of large groups of youths congregating and consuming alcohol. This has been understandably distressing for local residents.

All well known hot spot areas have been targeted by the Neighbourhood Police Team through analysis of community intelligence and various social media network

sites and those groups found congregating in these areas are receiving attention. This approach includes educating youths regarding the problems surrounding street drinking as well as referring those persistent offenders to the Alcohol Referral team who alongside Neighbourhood Officers will conduct home visits on those responsible.

To support this initiative the Team will also be carrying out a 'Bottle-watch' operation whereby local shops are visited and alcohol sold by them is marked with a sticker. The stickers are

difficult to remove and will enable Officers to identify who has been supplying youngsters following any alcohol seizures. Any persons or premises found to be supplying alcohol irresponsibly will find themselves receiving necessary action from Police and the Licensing Unit.

The first 2 weeks of 'Operation: EDGEWATER' were a huge success and 2 large alcohol seizures were made.

Sergeant Mark Edwards added "This initiative has been made possible with the invaluable support provided to us by local Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the town and any groups that continue to congregate and create Anti-Social behaviour through their reckless drinking can expect us gatecrashing their evening. We will also take vigilant action against anyone suspected of supplying alcohol for these youths. If anyone has any information that they would like to pass on to the Beat team, then we can be contacted on 0345 60 60 365 or alternatively via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111".

Newton Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police team are now accessible on facebook, where regular updates will be provided.

An Eggstraordinary Easter Competition



As part of the Easter celebrations pupils of Byerley Park School took part in an Easter Eggstravaganza. The pupils (and some parents!) worked incredibly hard to produce some outstanding decorated eggs.

The standard of the competition amazed everyone, including Judge Katy Milne, the Community Arts Manager at Greenfield School Community and Arts College, who had a tough job to choose between the 'eggcellent' entries. Parents and staff were able to view the eggs

on display after school and many commented on how they were blown away by the level of creativity shown by the pupils.

Well done to everyone who took part. Special congratulations to the winners: Jaden, Hollie and Dominic in Reception; Erin, Emily and Harvey in Year 1; Lucy, Lewis and Jayden in Year 2; Frazer, Jake and Joseph in Year 3; Emma, Adara and Ben in Year 4; Ben, Scarlet and Aidan in Year 5; Dylan, Holly and Blake in Year 6.



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

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

WEDNESDAY 4th MAY 2011

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on Wednesday, 4th May, 2011 commencing at 6.00p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe.

'At this meeting the Council's aims and Targets for the 2010/11 year will be discussed.'

Note:- The Annual Town Meeting will follow the Customer Panel Meeting at 7.15 p.m. on this evening.

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

Why not come along and join us at this meeting – we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700 or e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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

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SATURDAY 30th APRIL
MONDAY 2nd MAY**

WOODHAM COLLEGE HELP BIG SPRING CLEAN



Last week a group of Year 7 students from Woodham Community Technology College took part in 'Litterfree Durham's Big Spring Clean'. The students worked for two hours picking up rubbish from the local area. They then tidied the school site as well! Although the weather was poor the students got stuck in and did their bit for the wider community.

Easter and May Bank Holiday Bin Collection

There will be changes to some refuse and recycling collections over the Easter and May Bank Holidays for residents in County Durham except for those living in the Easington area.

Collections will be as normal in all areas of the county up to and including Good Friday, April 22. During the following two weeks collections will be one day later than normal in all areas except Easington. During the week commencing April 25, collections will be one day later than usual in the Newton Aycliffe area. Collection crews will still be working the day of the Royal Wedding (April 29) to empty bins that would

normally be emptied on a Thursday. They will also be working on Saturday April 30 to empty those bins that would normally be emptied on a Friday.

During the week commencing May 2, collections will again be one day later than usual in all areas of Durham County Council. Collection crews will be working on Saturday May 7 to collect bins that would normally be emptied on a Friday.

Further information on changes over the Easter and May Bank Holidays can be found at www.durham.gov.uk/holidaybins or by calling Durham County Council on 0300 123 7070

UNEMPLOYED? and AGED 19 or OVER?

Then please join is at the

Agnew Community Centre

on a

Day Leadership Award in Sports Leadership

This is free and we need ten new people (on a date to be arranged), if you are interested and to confirm your application, please contact:

Ron on 01325 321504

Office 07749 236 853

or home 01325 301033

This course is being run by

Anderson Sports Development

and runs from 10am to 4pm

The Day Certificate enables leaders to better engage people in Community Groups, Primary and Secondary Schools, Uniformed Organisations and Sports Clubs.

Benefits of the course include:

- The confidence needed for adults to embark on to other Sports Leadership Qualifications and helps develop leadership, communication and organisational skills;
- Raises self esteem by enabling candidates to practice and achieve these skills in a supportive environment;
- Helps support adults other than teachers with the delivery of simple games and activities within their local community;
- Supports the delivery of community based programmes that aim to engage young people and target inappropriate behaviour.

Also within the programme there will be a "Safeguarding Children Workshop" which we feel paramount for the protection of the new candidates and welfare of the children and young people attending the multisports sessions.

This course and sessions for young people has been funded by the Durham County Council Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities and our sincere thanks to to them and in particular Claire Todd from all at the Agnew Community Centre

GROOMER SPECIALISES IN SHY & TIMID DOGS



this year with Justin (*see photo*).

Amy likes to focus her grooming skills on rare breeds and large dogs, but her other speciality is working with timid or very shy dogs. If you think you are challenged by your dog Amy welcomes the opportunity to help you. She is based in Whinbank Park on Aycliffe Business Park.

“Be Enterprising” business coach Emily Edwards who supported Amy throughout her start up process said “Amy’s success is a testament to her passion for dogs and dedication to start her own business. She currently has over 90 clients who have all been very pleased with her work”

Amy said “Emily has given me so much advice and helped me with my research which has been valuable in my start up, and the support I received from Allan Sangster from Aycliffe Storage was invaluable.”

To contact Amy for an appointment please ring 07580 330332 or email dogs@amysdivinedogs.co.uk

After 9 years working in dog grooming parlours Amy Holt decided it was time to start her own business and has successfully set up Amy’s Divine Dogs.

Amy, 24, from Newton Aycliffe, has, from a young age, been around dogs, her Mum, Mandy, would take her to various dog agility events throughout the UK.

At one event in 1999 Amy met a Nova Scotia Duck Tailing Retriever, a rare breed from Canada used by game hunters to lure ducks to the banks with its fox like imitation skills.

Amy has proved very successful with the breed and recently won 1st Post Graduate in the Nova Scotia breed class at Crufts

Volunteers Keep “The Cubby” Viable



Amanda Race (20) left Bishop Auckland College with an NVQ in Catering and is currently looking for a job. To keep her hand in and gain more experience she volunteered to cook at “The Cubby” for those who use the Drop-in to get a good hot meal.

Amanda lives in Heighington and went to Greenfield Arts College. Also helping out with good home-made cooking, alongside Chef Tony Tomlinson, is former Care Worker Trish Greenwell (left) who has

lived on the town for 25 years. She is widowed with four children and four Grandchildren.

Trish is using the experience at The Cubby to help her get back into work.

Chairman Billy Blenkinsopp said “We appreciate the help of volunteers who help keep costs down as a service to those in our community who use this facility.

Meals are as little as £2 and you can have a dessert for £1. We also offer hot & cold snacks with all types of beverages”.

ACTIVITIES AT NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Neville Community Centre are holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 30th April from 10am-1pm. Tables for hire to sell your own second hand goods is only £5 Ring 313924 to book your space.

Darlington Big Band visits the Centre on Saturday 7th May at 2pm. Your opportunity to hear great music by talented musicians. Admission: Adults £4, Seniors £3 and children £2. Ring to book your seat.

Rummage Sale on Saturday 21st May from 10am to 4pm. Inside and outside the Centre. Tables £5 - ring to book your space.

NB there is no Zumba on 25th April. We are appealing for raffle prizes for our next fund raising events. Ring for us to collect.

Last call for those wishing to receive their Veterans Badge in recognition of their Service in the Armed Forces. Ring for details of the Parade.

We are looking for volunteers to run a Mother & Baby club on Monday afternoons from 1.30 - 2.30pm.

All at Neville Parade Community Centre would like to wish all Newton News readers a Happy Easter.

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Shatto Way, Newton Aycliffe - £114,950
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Elstob Close Newton Aycliffe
Choice of two Three Bed Semi Det House, G.C.H, D.G, Lounge, Kitchen, gardens ring for further details.
Rafes Green North Newton Aycliffe - £194,995 **NEW**
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Stead Close Newton Aycliffe - £101,950 **REDUCED**
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Gregory Court, Newton Aycliffe - £73,950
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Doxford Close, Newton Aycliffe - £99,950
A Two Bed Mid Link House, G.C.H, D.G, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge, Sun room, Gardens, Parking available if required. Viewing Recommended.
Heatherburn Court Woodham - £99,500
A 3 Bed and Link, G.C.H, D.G, Fitted Kitchen, conservatory, Ideal for the FTB, Garden, Drive, Popular location.
Delfoe Crescent, Newton Aycliffe - £115,000
A Three Bed Mid Link House, G.C.H, D.G, lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, second reception room, Sun Room, Security System Garage, Garden Viewing Recommended.
Mollanby Crescent Newton Aycliffe - £87,950
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Hawkshead Place, Newton Aycliffe - £43,750 50% Share
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Bede Crescent Newton Aycliffe P.O.A.
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Pemberton Road Newton Aycliffe - £94,950 NEW
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Slidals Way Newton Aycliffe - £107,500
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Greenfield College Arts Platform



The Arts Platform, part of the Creative & Media Arts Festiv-All, was a great success last week at Greenfield Community and Arts College. The show featured drama sketches, singing, dancing, fashion and a staff band called Corridor Pass. The students of Greenfield School coordinated,

organised and promoted the event, as well as creating all of the work that was presented in the show. The show was sold out to friends, family and the local community. One of the highlights of the show was a handmade dress created by year 11 textiles student Nicole Coulthard. Nicole was given a brief to



design a garment to be sold at festivals for 18-23 year olds in the style of punk and the work she developed was inspired by designer Gary Harvey who uses recycled materials in his work. Nicole's dress was made with 150 individual handmade newspaper

flowers and stitched onto a fabric structure made from black out material. She displayed her work at the Arts Platform which her teacher was extremely proud of because the work beyond GCSE level. All of the students produced a fantastic display that evening and all of the work was of a very high standard. We are hoping to develop the Arts Platform to include more young people and have another sell out show next year.

Written by Nicole Coulthard, Kate Bailey and Arts Co ordinator Katy Milne

NEW LOOK KIT FROM LOCAL GARAGE

Newton Aycliffe Juniors have adopted new colours for the 2011/2012 season. The U8s were the first to wear the new strip having gained a sponsorship from Shafto Way Service Centre.

Proprietor Dave Bell was delighted to sponsor NAFJC U8's as he feels it will benefit local children who represent the town each week across the region in the TJFA League.

Dave said "It is good for the kid's health and social development to be involved in outdoor organised activities".

NAJFC Under 8's would like to thank Dave for his very generous contribution and hope the new kit will inspire the team to reach the cup final next season. If you would like to be part of an award winning local junior football club visit our website at www.najfc.co.uk where you can find information about the club and contact details.

GREENFIELD VISIT HOWTOWN



The visit started with a steamer ride across Lake Ullswater to the Howtown Centre where we were greeted with a warm welcome from the staff there.

The students quickly got sorted into their groups, unpacked the necessary things and made their own beds! Some students found this incredibly challenging! Each group's first test was a 'jog and dip' this involved a jog around the lake and then a jump into the icy cold lake!! The other activities that the groups did through the week were a wide range of outdoor and adventurous challenges including gorge walking, rock climbing, canoeing, raft building, orienteering, tunnelling, kayaking and many more. There were so many activities on offer that not every group could do every activity. However, there was one adventure that every student did and did very successfully, this was the expedition. It involved a lot of preparation and packing up of equipment, a journey to a site in the woods or on the mountain where they were going to camp and the setting up of their shelter for the night. This was either in tents or bivis (a plastic sheet for

everyone!). All the groups stayed there for one night, did some star gazing, had a campfire and toasted some marshmallows!

All Greenfield staff and students had an amazing time, and wished they could do it all again the following week!

Students Experience University Life

Students in Years 9 and 10 from Woodham Community Technology College have been taking part in an Aim Higher Associate Scheme. As part of this programme, students have been working with an Aim Higher Associate in their school, developing knowledge and skills which will support them in making important decisions about their future.

As the scheme draws near to completion the students were offered the opportunity to attend a specially created programme at Durham University. Students experienced a flavour of what studying at Durham University is like through touring the campus and accommodation facilities as well as preparing presentations and experiencing university life. The event was a success with many parents attending the celebration event on the final day where students were presented with certificates. This is one of many events that Woodham partake in, as a way of ensuring our

students are provided with the appropriate information, advice and guidance. As teachers, parents and carers, we all want the very best for our young people and opportunities like this only serves to broaden their minds about options for their future.

Family History Meeting

The next meeting on Wednesday 27th April will be a research night. The Society meets on the last Wednesday of each month in the Church of Latter Day Saints on Shafto Way at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome. There is a £2.00 cover charge; annual subscription is £10.00 with meetings free to members. For further information on NAFHS please visit our website at www.NAFHS.com or contact Keith Bell on 01325 307905.



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Searching for a Star

Showcase Entertainments International Limited are holding their biggest ever Talent Show at the Civic Hall, Shildon at 7pm. on 4th May.

Have you ever dreamed of being on the stage, do you love to perform and work with celebrities? This is your chance to make your dream come true. Would you like to appear in Blackpool, the Vegas of the North or tour the country? Don't just sit and think about it, apply now!

There will be celebrity judges and cash prizes for the top three winners with a place given to the winner of the Talent Show to appear in the autumn season of 'Showcase' professional production of "One Night Only" which will be touring the country from September.

Whether you can sing, dance, are a comedian, a magician, a look-alike or indeed any speciality act, whether you are a dance school, a barber shop quartet - if you wish to take

part or have any questions, or would like a brief chat then give us a call on 01325 316224.

The audience will have the final vote. The celebrity judges will be there to advise the audience, so come along and support your act and help them win. A £5.00 entrance fee secures your place in the competition.

Showcase Entertainments have performed in this country with Paul Daniels, Cannon & Ball, Jess Conrad, Syd Little, Linda Lusardi, Billy Pearce, Joe Longthorne to name but a few. Showcase Entertainments International also perform abroad throughout the summer season so the opportunities are there for those people who have also dreamed of working abroad. If you don't apply you will never know if you could succeed so apply now! Tickets are available for family, friends etc to come along to support your act - ticket price £10.00 each.

Greenfield Win £250 in Gala Theatre Show

Greenfield School Community & Arts College - Youth Dance company 'GROUNDED' led by Miss P. Wingfield performed at the Gala Theatre in Durham City, Monday 4th April.

The group were part of Feet First production which represented dance across the county. The dance piece they performed was entitled 'Endure' and captured the overall theme of the Olympics. The piece involved projection and focused on the hard work and determination it takes to succeed in life as an athlete.

The group piece was originally created for a regional competition themed on the Olympics. Well done to the group for coming first in this and winning £250 for Greenfield.

ROTARY CLUB HOLD MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION



The Rotary Club was active again recently with a Model Railway Exhibition at the Youth Centre. Exhibitors travelled from far and wide to give enthusiasts in the town fantastic displays of their modelling skills and also show a collection of miniature railway stock, all free of charge.

Organiser Rotarian John Burrows thanks all who supported the event. The proceeds of around £500 will go to charity.



LEAVE THE DOG WITH AIR

Readers travelling with dogs in their car are reminded to leave a window open if they leave the dog in the car while they go shopping. Without ventilation the animal will suffer greatly during hot weather.

ROYAL WEDDING STREET PARTY

To celebrate the marriage of Prince William to Catherine Middleton on 29th April, St. Clares Church are holding a "Street Party" in the Church Hall. Tickets are only £1 which includes food, games and entertainment from 3pm till 5pm.

Feel free to come in fancy dress and there are prizes for the best adult and child. To book your ticket please contact Judith on 315567 or 07749 779410

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Cheltenham Way
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Prospect Terrace
Chilton
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Deceptively spacious two bedroom terrace property. Superb fitted dining/kitchen. Modern bathroom/WC, DG, GCH, greatly improved

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL

Being the year end, the Council received reports on a large number of Council targets, and also on a number of new policies, which had been updated to take account of new legislation and practices. Councillors called back two of these new policies for further clarification with the Council's Human Resources consultant – on Capability & Discipline, and Sickness Absence. Readers will know, of course, that the Town Council is a major employer, employing some 80 people, so it is important that, as a responsible employer, the Council is a model of good practice, and it is equally important that the Councillors know and agree what is being done in the Council's good name. The Councillors were asked whether they wanted to take advantage of a change

in the law which allows them to seek only a 'limited assurance' audit regime, or whether they wanted to continue to ask for a full audit. Although a full audit is, of course, more expensive, Councillors agreed that it is a reassurance for the ratepayers that their Council Tax is not being misused, and it is also a protection for the Council against accusations in the press that its finances are 'in a mess'. The Council was delighted to cooperate with St Clare's Church and the Rotary Club to put a small barrier – paid for by a generous donation from the Rotary Club – around the town's War Memorial. We also agreed to put a message of support into this year's Durham Gala brochure. Since this costs only £35, it may seem strange that this was the only decision which caused debate, but the Great Aycliffe Independents justifiably objected that the Gala has a political message, with which they do not want to be associated. In the end the GAI Councillors agreed to send a message of support, on the grounds that the Gala is part of the cultural heritage of the County ... as long as the Council's message was non-political. This Labour Councillors had already accepted – it would be inappropriate for the Council, which represents all the people of the town, to send a message which represented the politics only of one party. And so we were able to reach a consensus. Counc. John Clare

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Rocsolid - A Fantastic Organisation

Dear Sir,
I was saddened and angered with the letter from Jim Cherrie on his concerns over Shafto House and his opinion that it is to be used for drug and alcohol dependant like young people who live in Hope House. My story is about my baby son who was almost certain to enter adoption proceedings as Social Services were not sure of my ability to care for him. All I could offer was my love as I could not look after him as his main carer. I contacted Rocsolid at Hope House where I was met with a very professional friendly and supportive team. They listened to my worries, gave advice and put me in touch with groups who would develop my skills and build my confidence. Drugs and alcohol are strictly forbidden at Hope House, but most people are here for other reasons: fleeing abusive partners, being disabled or learning how to care for relatives. Rocsolid is a fantastic organisation and many young people would fail without them. They did not have to take me in, but they did. My son has been spared a childhood in care and for this I will always be grateful. It is not all one way either as the young people at Rocsolid have formed a charity to organise events in the community. We must be given a chance and not be judged by the lack of a good start in life. This way we can become valuable members of the community. A. Fowler

GOOD USE FOR SHAFTO HOUSE

Dear Sir
I read Jim Cherrie comments last week and I'm shocked at his outburst. I personally think that it's great to see the Hope House entrepreneur, considering putting Shafto House to good use and back onto the map of Newton Aycliffe. Everyone needs a helping hand every now and then, I also believe that the community stand together on this and pleased that Shafto is not left empty for any length of time, decaying day by day - They have my vote ! JP

Fun Fair Breaks Rules on Parking

Dear Sir,
I would like to know why the Fun Fair at Simpasture have a special dispensation for parking, as we who live here don't get any! I am talking about the way a heavy goods vehicle was parked across the pavement from the Iron Horse Car Park. I contacted Durham County Council and they have passed the buck to the Police, who do not seem interested at all. Parking around Simpasture is a nightmare at the best of times, and this wagon is blocking both line of sight and the pavement. Anyone



wishing to walk past this wagon has to walk into the road and as for anyone in a wheelchair they have no chance of getting past - it's an accident waiting to happen. Brian Sowerby

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Giving a Helping Hand

Dear Sir,
I am 19 years old and have lived at Hope House for over a year. I have physical problems and slight learning disability, but I don't let that stop me attending College full time and learning to live semi independently. Rocsolid staff are supporting and encouraging me to reach my full potential and have given me a home. The gentleman who wrote labelling those who live in Hope House as drug and alcohol abusers should visit the project to see if his concerns are factual. This is not a half-way house - it is supported accommodation with strict rules of tenancy and no one is allowed to run riot. Resident.

NEWTON NEWS
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TOWN TEENAGE DIABETES VICTIM SWIMS 22 MILES TO HELP OTHERS

Read Simon Howe's Own Inspiring Story

I knew I hadn't been feeling myself all summer. I was always tired. I was tired playing cricket, I couldn't be bothered to go to water polo and when I did go I would get into trouble off the coach for being so slow.

It didn't matter what I did I was getting more tired. I started back at school and immediately noticed that I couldn't see properly and I couldn't understand why my Mum wouldn't take any notice of me. I couldn't sleep for wanting to drink and go to the loo and I thought that was making me tired.

When I went to the opticians I was quite pleased that I needed glasses only if I was to say to Mum that I hadn't been making it up. Our family don't go to the doctors much, but I had been pleading to go as I knew something was wrong. Mum made me an appointment and I came out of school.

I don't think the doctor realised how ill I felt as he said I had to go back for blood tests and go back a week later for the results. I didn't know how I was going to get through another week.

My appointment was 8.30am. and Mum took my brother to school first which turned out

to be fortunate. I was slightly worried about having a blood test as it was the first time, but I don't think anything could have prepared me for what I was going to be told about 15 minutes later. I was really worried and I knew something was wrong.

Although my Dad had been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in January last year, I didn't know there was a difference between Type 1 or Type 2, in fact I didn't know there was two types. I thought diabetes was what my Dad had and he was OK watching his diet and cutting out all the unhealthy foods and drink. When the doctor told me I had to go to hospital I felt sick.

The hospital staff were waiting for me and shown to a bed where I was surrounded by doctors and nurses asking me loads of questions. The last person to see me was Chris Kirby who is now my diabetic nurse. He is such a brilliant man and calmed my nerves down straight away. He gave me the facts which I needed to know but anything I asked he didn't hold back on.

It was soon lunch time and before I could have anything to eat he showed me how to take



Simon with younger brother Richie

my first blood reading which was in the high twenties. He showed me my insulin pen to see that it didn't hurt. He first injected himself, then asked Mum and Dad to do it. Then I had to have my first insulin injection - the first of many!

Apart from actually being told that I had diabetes, which is an illness I would have for life and that I had to have injections after every meal, the worst point was when Chris told me I wouldn't be able to be an RAF pilot which is what I'd wanted to be for as long as I could remember. I've watched Tornados take off and land from RAF Lossiemouth since I was born and just before being diagnosed I was at a Friends and Family Day at RAF Leeming.

There had been times during that day when I hadn't been able to focus properly. Chris explained the reason for this was the build-up of sugar crystals behind the retina and as soon as I had given myself insulin my vision became clear. Now I know that if I'm naughty and have high blood sugars my vision becomes blurry.

The first hurdle I had to overcome was going back to school and I was petrified. It was as bad as walking into hospital. I had said I didn't want anyone to find out but by the end of the 1st day it felt like everyone in the school knew.

The teachers were all very understanding and most of the students quite sympathetic but wanted to know everything. I did get a few cruel comments and one of my peers would sing songs which had the word sugar in, e.g. 'A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down' and 'Sugar Sugar'. However it was this same person who when we went to Berlin realised I was in a hypo and he got me a drink and food.

I consider myself quite lucky in that usually I am aware when I am having a hypo. I don't think I have had a blood sugar reading under 2 and I usually know as soon as it goes below 4.2. I become very lethargic and can't think clearly.

I think I am getting on with my life just the same as I did before I had diabetes. Two weeks after

being diagnosed I went on a scout camp and started back at water polo training after about 6 weeks. I have learnt that I am OK if I do as Chris says and take extra carbohydrate half an hour before I go. I went on a school trip to Berlin just before Christmas and endured temperatures of -18° and also a 12 hour traffic jam. You can imagine how worried my Mum was with this one.

I have just come home from a weekend residential with Duke of Edinburgh which was in preparation for my Silver expedition in July. This was the first time since being diagnosed that I had been hiking and it taught me a lot in the way of needing extra carbohydrate to increase energy levels.

This is the first time I have done fundraising on this scale. Obviously I have done fundraising at school and with my scout group so I am unsure how it will take off and how much I will raise. The idea came as I needed to do something for my physical challenge within the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and swimming 22 miles in a week is definitely a challenge.

It was my brother's idea to raise money for Diabetes UK, in fact he said he wouldn't do it for any other charity. We haven't done any additional training for the swim. I go training 3 times a week anyway and managed to swim 6000m in 2 hours 2 years ago. My brother has recently increased his training to 5 or 6 times a week but he has been training for the under 14's National Water Polo Championships which were held in Manchester this weekend and which he did very well in. So really I don't think we need to do any more training.

As with most teenagers, I won't get up on a morning so although I know it's not the right thing to do, most mornings I don't have breakfast but I do take a blood sugar reading before going to school which is usually between 5 and 6. At break time I have a scone from the school dining hall.

This helps especially if I have PE. At lunchtime I do a blood reading, then have lunch, quite often I have a baguette, then

take my insulin.

It is usually when walking home from school that I have a hypo so I always try and walk home with friends.

When my Mum makes me a meal she knows the carbohydrate values of food and majority of foods you buy from supermarkets have the carbohydrate values on the packet but when you have school dinners I sometimes have to guess on portion sizes etc.

It is the same routine at tea time. If I am going swimming I tend to decrease the amount of insulin I take or have a snack half an hour before I go. I wouldn't dream of going swimming without a supply of dextrose tablets and an energy drink. I try and take my night time insulin at about 10pm (17 units of glargine). I go to a diabetes clinic every 3 months and Doctor On Tin is more than pleased with my progress.

My last HbA1c was 7.2 % which was satisfactory. In the Easter holidays I am going go-karting with other diabetics from the area. I have had my first retinopathy check which was fine.

EDITOR: Simon and his brother Richie are planning to raise cash for Diabetes UK during the Easter holidays as part of their Duke of Edinburgh challenge.

They are attempting to swim 1,416 lengths of Newton Aycliffe Pool, the equivalent of swimming the English Channel (22 miles).

The Easter Story Explained

Revd Linda Potter from St. Clare's visited Sugar Hill School last week to work with Year 5 students.

Children from Classes 9 and 10 acted out the "Last Supper" in front of the whole school.

The pupils enjoyed the opportunity to work with Reverend Potter and learnt a lot about the Easter story.

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GKR Karate in World Cup Contest



On Sunday the 10th April students from Aycliffe and Darlington classes coached by Sensei Dez Tinkler went down to Barnsley to compete in the World Cup Qualifiers, 12 Students attended, 10 received medals the other two finished in the top 5 so qualified as well. They all did very well and focused on the job of qualifying in the Kata and Kumite so were all going to Birmingham's National Indoor Arena in July to compete against the rest of the world in the biggest competition on the GKR calendar. So we are all training hard to be ready for this event which happens every two years. The results were:
Ashley Wood: Silver for Kata and Bronze for Kumite.
Laura Sanderson: Silver for Kata.
Daniel Askew: Silver for Kumite.
Trevor Bellwood: Qualified.
Liam Bellwood: Qualified.
Denise Askew: Silver for Kata. (not pictured)
John Embleton: Silver for Kumite.

John Aspinall: Gold for Kata, Silver for Kumite.
Richie Bickle: Bronze for Kata, Bronze for Kumite.
Adam Cruddle: Silver for Kumite. (not pictured)
Nathan Lovejoy: Silver for Kata.
Annalise Tinkler: Bronze for Kumite, Black Belt open 14 to 17 years.
Sensei Dez Tinkler: Bronze for Kata, Bronze for Kumite.



Newtonian Represents Romania in Eurovision Song Contest

Newtonian David Bryan is representing Romania in the Eurovision Song Contest. He always loved dancing and singing when he was young and attended Stephenson Way Primary and Greenfield College. At Stephenson Way he took part in small school productions with his own comedy act with a friend. In his final year at Greenfield he took part in 'The Big Top' where he was the lead character 'Charlie the Clown'. David came to realise he had an ability to perform and when he left school enrolled in Durham New College for Performing Arts. He found work with agencies while working as a binman, mig welder, roofer, etc. He enrolled with a European Voluntary Organisation who sent him as part of a team to Romania, helping to rebuild an orphanage. While there he met a girl, fell in love and decided to stay. In his spare time he sang in a karaoke bar and was noticed by a professional who offered him a job singing. This led to David becoming the lead singer in a new band "Hotel FM". The band entered the Eurovision contest and won the pre-selections. This was televised live on TVR Romania on New Year's Eve and winning gave them the ticket to perform and represent Romania in the Eurovision Song Contest in Germany in May 2011. All of Newton Aycliffe can be proud because David will not just represent Romania but also his home town which is always close to his heart.



"Get Set Kids" Mag Becomes a CIC

Newton Aycliffe based family magazine Get Set Kids have today announced their move to the community and voluntary sector – they have just been certified as a non profit making Community Interest Company and their name will change to Get Set Kids CIC. Emma Ord and Ally Mendelsohn, two Newton Aycliffe Mums, started the magazine two years ago to provide a community service to families in the area and they distribute it currently via 60 primary schools and also other local venues. The magazine has gone from strength to strength and won a Star Radio Business

Award for Action In The Community in 2010 and also celebrity endorsement from Jamie Oliver. They also held a very successful charity ladies night in aid of TFM's Cash For Kids charity. This inspired Emma and Ally to apply for the CIC status and they are thrilled it has been accepted. "This will hopefully reinforce all that we have been working towards and prove we are committed to providing a valuable aid to family life. We try to make the magazine as interesting and informative as we can and will continue to do so. We're also hoping to be involved in lots more charity events in the future.

We want to get more local schools and people involved in the magazine and will start by having a different school design a page in each issue. We've also started a Get Set Kids club which readers can apply to join via our web site at www.getsetkids.co.uk and we're running regular competitions on our Facebook page so we'd encourage everyone to sign up for our latest exclusive offers. If anyone has any ideas for the magazine or would like to be involved in any way they can get in touch with Emma or Ally on 07534 997875 or 07971 577572 or email info@getsetkids.co.uk

Charity Golf Day For DISC

DISC, based at Aycliffe, are organising a Charity Golf Day at Woodham Golf and Country Club, on Monday 27th June to raise money towards its young carers project. Tickets are just £32.50 and includes breakfast bun on arrival, a full round of golf and a one course meal and raffle. Designed by James Hamilton Stutt and opened in 1981, the course is one of the most challenging in the North. The 18-hole championship golf course is set in 229 acres of mature parkland, a lengthy 6,668 yards from the championship tees with lakes and woodland forming part of the picturesque setting it is a delight to play. DISC is one of the North's most successful home-grown charities, with the vision of helping people to achieve their potential we provide a range of projects to support people to overcome barriers and help them to achieve their goals, whether its **Support for vulnerable young people and their families, Promoting independent living for people with learning disabilities, Addressing homelessness and providing housing related support, or Support for people with drug or alcohol problems** DISC Young Carers Projects has been supporting young people aged 5-18 who provide a caring role within their family for nearly 15 years. This support includes intensive one to one intervention, group support, family work, training, advice, activity days and respite.



Young carers bear responsibilities and duties that are beyond their years, and often fall between gaps in the system. This can lead to difficulties at school, college and home, and make them miss out on opportunities to socialise with their peers, and learn important interpersonal skills. Young carer Naomi, said: "I care for my Brother and my Gran. I found out about Young Carers through a friend of the family. They have given me some 'relax' time and 'me' time. This has helped me to have a break from my caring role and make new friends." Young carer Stephanie, said:

"I care for my Grandma, Granddad and Mum. I found out about Young Carers through school. They have given me a break by taking me on activities and residential. The workers are really good and have given me one to one support. They have helped me with issues at home and at school. I'm really looking forward to going to the festival and getting on a plane for the first time." Participants are expected to have their own golf clubs and be aware of the rules of golf. Tickets available by contacting Linda Luke on 01388 424 450 email: linda.luke@disc-vol.org.uk

Aycliffe Ladies Beaten in Semi-Final

Well done to Lynn Towler, Esther Helm and Kath Dixon who made it to the semi-final of the Over 50's 2 Wood Triples National Competition which was held in Nottingham recently. The ladies all play for Great Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club based at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex. The trio played Spalding on Monday and won 19-8, they won again on Monday afternoon after beating Bristol 19-6. This meant they were through to the semi-finals on Tuesday, but unfortunately they met their match while playing Ipswich and lost 16-13. Well done ladies, better luck next time.

A ROYAL TREAT FOR NEWTON AYCLIFFE HOUSE HUNTERS

With Royal Wedding fever sweeping the nation, house builder Miller Homes has decided to spread the love by offering house hunters in County Durham the chance to win a break fit for a Prince or Princess. The opportunity to win a weekend in London with afternoon tea at the Ritz and a night in a luxury hotel for two is open to anyone who registers with Miller Homes online before the wedding of the century begins at 11am on Friday 29 April. The offer comes as the Royal couple start the final countdown to their wedding in front of the world and is open to entrants from the 15th April to 11am on the 29th April – the couple's big day. Miller Homes North East sales director Steve McElroy said: "Why should it be William and Kate having all the fun at the moment? "With love in the air and weddings the talk of the town, we thought it would be timely to treat one of our potential homebuyers to a taste of the good life – and we can't think of a more fitting prize than afternoon tea at one of the world's most famous hotels." Miller Homes has developments across County Durham including Cobblers Hall in Newton Aycliffe. At Cobblers Hall a range of stunning three, four and five bedroom homes start from £155,000. A 3-bedroom semi detached Gissing house type is now also available on Miller's shared equity scheme Miway. Priced at £155,000 this home can be bought for only £116,250 now with Miway.



The Miway scheme enables buyers to pay for part of their home now (up to 75%) with the rest coming in the form of a low interest loan from Miller Homes. Lenders may require a minimum deposit. Miller Homes' exclusive part exchange scheme Miswap is also available at Cobblers Hall on selected plots. To register, visit www.millerhomes.co.uk or call into the developments sales centres open from Thursday – Monday between 10:30am and 5:30pm or telephone: Cobblers Hall on: 0800 840 8491. Heather Lea Green on: 0800 840 8489. The Meadows on: 0800 840 8487 or The Pastures on: 0800 840 8484.

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SAFE HANDS HOLD AWARD AT 3M

The efforts of employees at 3M Aycliffe have ensured the manufacturing site has won its fourth President's Award in a row from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

The annual award is only presented to those UK companies who have a minimum 10-year record of maintaining the RoSPA gold standard for occupational health and safety management systems.

It is to be presented to the site at a special awards ceremony in Birmingham next month.

David Rawlins, RoSPA's awards manager, said: "RoSPA firmly believes that organisations that have demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvement in accident and ill health prevention deserve recognition."

"3M has shown that it is committed to striving for such continuous improvement and we are delighted to honour it through the presentation of an award."

The diversified technology company manufactures respirators and products for the vehicle aftercare market at its Heighington Lane site.

Adrian Hughes, the site's environment, health and safety manager said the success reflected the individual efforts of all its employees. "Awards like this are only achieved through a team effort by everyone here at 3M and we're delighted to have received this recognition from RoSPA once again," he commented.

The 3M company's global commitment to the environment has also been recognised by a 2011 Energy Star award for its comprehensive worldwide energy conservation efforts.

The Star awards are made jointly on an annual basis by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy and 3M is the first company ever to win it for seven consecutive years.

Among 3M's successes recognised by the award is its achievement in reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide at its sites by 77 per cent over a nine-year period.

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Last Chance for Free Stand at Fair

There are, currently, over 60 different organisations booked to have stands At the Community Fair to be held at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre On Saturday 14th May.

Is your organisation missing out on this FREE opportunity to publicise activities or recruit new members! Take a stand and there is also an arena where you will be able to demonstrate your activities and of course, impress the hundreds of visitors to the Fair.

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Dance Academy Anniversary



On the 20th April 2010, Aycliffe Dance Academy formed and began to deliver dance classes to children and adults in Newton Aycliffe. Since then the Academy has grown rapidly and exceeded everyone's expectations. The Academy started with a handful of students teaching 4 different dance disciplines. Now the Academy has 159 dance students, over 300 Zumba members and is delivering 9 different dance disciplines each week. The Academy plans to expand the school even further by offering new dance and fitness classes, producing

their very first Dance Show in July entering students into dance examinations.

Emma Cox, Principal of Aycliffe Dance Academy, said: 'I can't believe it has been a year already - and what an exciting year it has been! The dancers are continuing to work extremely hard in class and are improving week upon week. It is fantastic! I would like to thank all of the students and parents for being so supportive over the last year. It is lovely to see that good old team spirit can help to make the school a success! I would also like to thank all of my family and friends for

their help and support from the beginning! You are all truly amazing!'

If you would like to help Aycliffe Dance Academy celebrate their first anniversary, join them at their Family Fun Day this Saturday (23rd April) at the Bethany Centre, Woodham. Everyone is welcome between 10am and 4pm. There will be: Face Painting, Nail Art, Bingo, Kids' Tattoos, Zumba Tasters, Cake Stalls, 2nd Hand Stall, Tombola, Lucky Dips, Café and much, much more! Please contact Emma on 07908 162 868 if you have any questions on this event.

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Getting Newtonians Back To Work

Great Aycliffe Town Council



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For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Leisure Manager Judith Simpson on 01325 300000 or by email on jsimpson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
 Closing date for applications: Noon, Friday 6th May, 2011
 Application packs can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, emailing info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk or from the Council website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



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Obituary

ALAN BROWN Died on 13th April 2011 in hospital. Alan, dearly loved Husband of Norma. Dear Brother of Malcolm; Brother-in-Law, Sisters-in-Law, Loving Nephew and Nieces. Friends please meet at Darlington Crematorium on Wednesday 27th April 2011. Leaving home at 9.45am for Service at 10.15am. Donations in lieu in aid of Heart Foundation, plate at Crematorium. Refreshments available at the Royal British Legion, Newton Aycliffe afterwards

SMITH Happy 13th birthday Callum on 21st April. Teenager at last. Love, Nan, Niall, Jemma and Lucy

KEIRAN CUTLER 16 on 24th April. Happy birthday love from Nanna, Grandad, Mam and Family

DANNY ROBERTSHAW Advanced Apprenticeship in IT Professional and Special Certificate for most effort. Well done Danny. Then one week later employed, you cool dude, now you can buy the beers. We are so proud of you. Love from Mam, Mike, Tim and Katherine

In Memoriam

FLORENCE DUNN 22nd April 2010. A year ago you left us, we miss you every day. We hold you within our hearts and there you will always stay. Thank you for the love we shared, the love you gave, the way you cared. Never selfish always kind, these are the memories you left behind. Love and miss you loads Nana. From your Grandchildren

FLORENCE DUNN 22nd April 2010. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal. You left me quietly your thoughts unknown, but you left me a memory I am really proud to own. Age will not dim her loving face, her sparkling eyes and happy face. She fell asleep and left me sad, I will never forget the Mother I had. From your broken hearted Daughter. Mum I miss you so much. Love, Wendy xxx

FLORENCE DUNN Died 22nd April 2010. Your life was a blessing, your memories a treasure, you were loved beyond words and missed far beyond measure. Always in my heart Flo. Love, Les

FLORENCE DUNN 22nd April 2010. Of all the gifts in life, however great or small. To have you as our Great Nana was the greatest gift of all. Love from your Great Grandchildren xxx

KIM FOWLER, Oakenfull-Newman. Died 25th April 2009. Loved with a love beyond all telling, missed with a grief beyond all tears. To the world she was just one. To us she was the world. Love forever Kim. In Heaven now she's gone to rest, with her Son Michael, our Grandson who died 29th April 2007. Deeply loved and remembered by Mam, Dad, Craig, Martin, Christopher, Kayt and families xxxx

MAUREEN YOUNG In loving memory of Maureen, died 20th April 2003. All my love, Paul xxxox

LILIAN BALDWIN 16th April 2009. A much loved and missed Mam and Grandma. Happy memories are forever in our thoughts. God bless. Dave, Tracy, David and Michelle xxx

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Treasured memories of a loving Dad and Grandad. Loved and remembered always. Sandra, Michael and Gemma xxxx

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Treasured memories of a dearly loved Grandad and Great Grandad. Love from Michelle, Kevin, Lisa and families xxxx

DENNIS POSKETT Died 22nd April 2007. Silent thoughts of you Dad, hold memories that will last forever. Love from Daughter Susan xxxx

ELIZABETH MOSS (Betty) 23rd April 2010. Grandma, it has been 1 year since we lost you. We love and miss you every day. Love always, Lesley and Lauren x

St. JOSEPH'S PUPILS ON LORRY ALERT



On Friday 1st April two men, from the DHL UK Foundation, came into St. Joseph's Primary School in Newton Aycliffe to teach the children how to be safe around lorries – Truck & Child Safety. The children arrived at school on Friday morning as usual, only to find a lorry parked in the playground. Each class took turns to go outside and learn about safety. Kevin and Nigel explained the difficulties of being a lorry driver. They made children aware of the four blind spots around the lorry and demonstrated the damage a lorry could do by using a cone. The cone was flattened! Children were amazed to learn that the lorry was the same length as a humpback whale and weighed the same as six elephants (28 tonnes). Children from class Earth said, 'I learnt never to play near a lorry or go and retrieve anything from under one'.


Congratulations

Adam Powell




Happy 18th Birthday
To our dearest Son Adam, congratulations on your 18th birthday pet. Loads of love, Mam, Dad, Eve, Fred, Luke, Nana, Grandma, all Aunties, Uncles and Cousins

Jackson Wade



Happy 18th Birthday
2nd May 2011
Love always,
Grandma Avril
and Grandad Ted xxx

Frances Wade



Happy 15th Birthday
23rd April 2011
Love forever,
Grandma Avril
and Grandad Ted xx

Thank You



DAVID and ALISON ATKINSON would like to thank Starlight Windows of Newton Aycliffe on the building of our conservatory. We were very impressed with everything, there was no mess, the lads were all very pleasant, nothing was too much trouble and the end result is brilliant. We would definitely recommend you. Once again, thank you.

JULIA PRINCE Would like to thank family and friends who attended her 40th party and for the cards and gifts received xxx

FARMER, Mary, Paula and David wish to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent sad bereavement. Also for the many cards and donations which will be forwarded to the District Nurses and to everyone who attended John's Funeral. Thanks go to Dr Bhaliga and all the girls at Shildon Surgery: Macmillan Nurses Karen, Sarah and Julie who were John's carers; All District Nurses, especially Linda and special thanks to the Rev. Keith Phipps for his comforting Service and to Colin Farlow of the Co-operative Funeral Care for his help with the arrangements.

Grace Everson

Happy 3rd Birthday
Happy 3rd Birthday to our little cheeky monkey. Hope you enjoy your very special holiday to Disneyland Paris! All our love, Mummy & Daddy x x
Lots of Love Gracie on your 3rd birthday and have a great time at Disneyland with Mickey & Minnie! Love from your Grandparents, Great Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, and all your loving family and friends x x x

Births


DANIELLE & KEVIN on 10th April a beautiful Daughter and Sister for Harry. Danielle and Kevin would like to thank friends and customers of Creations Hair Salon for their kind gifts. Thank you so much

Chloe Culling




ONE TODAY!
Happy 1st Birthday to our "Gorgeous Little Lady" All our love Mammy and Daddy xxx
To our special Granddaughter on your 1st birthday. Lots of Love Grandma and Grandad xxx
To my beautiful Granddaughter happy 1st birthday. Love from Grandad xxx

Peter Toole




Happy 60th Birthday
Congratulations on your 60th birthday. All our love from Avril and all the family xxx

Josh Ross



SWEET 16
27th April 2011
Have a great night, love you lots. Mam, Lee, Aaron, Gran, Nicky, Dave, Teegan and Ella xxx

Danny Robertshaw



Happy 18th Birthday
22nd April 2011
Have a great time. Love from Mam, Mike, Tim and Katherine

Property Sale

1 BEDROOM flat for sale, Spennymoor. New kitchen and bathroom, rewired and replastered, new laminate floor, double glazed, offers considered. Tel 07930 557330

Newton Aycliffe FC Collect Silverware



Newton Aycliffe enjoyed yet another memorable day at Moore Lane Park when their players got their hands on the Northern League Second Division title last Saturday. Skipper Sean Tarling and star player Dan Mellanby lifted the trophy, presented by league sponsor Ann Barkas, sparking more celebrations at the club.

Aycliffe secured the league title a fortnight ago, a week after clinching promotion to the first division. And after thrashing mid-table Birtley Town 5-1 last weekend, Aycliffe finally got their hands on the silverware they've worked hard for all season.

The majority of the 300-plus crowd stayed behind to witness the title presentation at Moore Lane Park. Proud chairman Gary Farley said: "It just seems like one celebration after another, but you have to make the most of these achievements when they come along, because they don't happen very often."

"Seeing Sean and Dan lift the trophy and celebrate with

LOCAL SPORT

More Local Sport on Page 11

their team-mates was a proud moment for the whole club, not least our supporters, many of whom stayed behind for the presentation.

"It meant just as much to them as it did to us and the players, but that's because there's an almost unique connection between the players and our fans."

"The season has been one big team effort, from the players, to the management staff, to people behind the scenes, to the Sports Club, the Supporters Club and all our fans, everyone deserves it."

"We'll enjoy it for a couple of weeks but then the real work starts in preparing for life in the First Division, and that's a big jump for the club but a challenge we're all relishing."

The emphatic win over Birtley last Saturday stretched Aycliffe's unbeaten league run to a staggering 28 games. Top scorer Warren Byrne bagged another brace taking his tally to 44 for the season, while substitute Ben Wood matched his haul with two of his own. Elliot Gardner's 20th of the term completed the victory with just Andrew McIntosh's second half effort spoiling the day for the hosts. Team: Pocklington, Mitton (Broom 74), Campbell, Oliver, Close, McMullen (Wood 64), Owen (Woodhouse 64), Gardner, Knox, Mellanby, Byrne. Unused: Peck.

Aycliffe will play their last home game of the season against Thornaby this Saturday. The club are producing a special, souvenir issue of their award-winning matchday programme for the game to celebrate their title win. It will contain 48 pages, costing £2.

The Newtonians then finish their season at Team Northumbria on Easter Monday. (More photos of trophy presentation can be found on our website www.newtonnews.co.uk)

AYCLIFFE'S FINAL FIXTURES

Saturday 23rd April: Thornaby (H), 3pm
Monday 25th April: Team Northumbria (A), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Aycliffe's Pro Swimmer Presents Awards

Sedgefield Water Polo Club held their Player of the Year Awards for the 2010 season at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Scott Carpenter Sedgefield's professional Water Polo star, who is playing in Barcelona for Terrassa, was at home to present the awards due to a foot injury which has kept him out of the water.

Once again Mathew Calvert (16) was named overall Player of the Year for a really great 2010. Unfortunately Mathew wasn't available to receive the award as he was leading GB Juniors in the European qualifiers in Lithuania, where they defeated the home team, Turkey and Macedonia. Mathias Reichel (16) was named "Under 17 Player of the Year" for his great improvement during 2010. Under 15 Player of the Year was James Pratt (13) who has been to GB training for the Academy age group and shows a lot of potential for the future.

Under 13 Player of the Year was Connor Keeble (11) who has shown a great attitude in training and is a great prospect for the future. Christopher Egginton 10 was named the "Best New Prospect".



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THE GIFT OF LIFE

The next Blood Donor Session in Newton Aycliffe is on 9th May in the Methodist Church Hall at Neville Parade. Times: 2.30-3.45 and 4.30-7pm.

First time donors should be aged between 17-65, weighing at least 50 kg (7 stone 12lbs) and in general good health. If you've donated before, you can start again up to your 70th birthday and there is no upper age limit for donors who have donated in the last two years. To book an appointment call the Donor Line on 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk

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