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LEUKAEMIA VICTIM RAISES £10,500 FOR HER CHARITY



I would like to thank the Rev Graham Morgan for a fantastic night of comedy

and great music from the 2Es, also thank you to everyone involved making a wonderful buffet. The night at Neville Parade Methodist Church was a huge success and the event made £700 which all goes to Leukaemia Research. This means we have now raised over £10,500 for the charity. Thank you from my family and I for all the help from within our community.

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Email: mylittleacorns@aol.com

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PUBLIC MEETING ON AYCLIFFE WIND TURBINES

There will be three public meetings to discuss the proposed building of between 25 and 45 Wind Turbines on the site known as the Isles which is situated on land between the A1M and Newton Aycliffe. Phil Wilson will meet the public to seek their reaction to this proposal.

The first meeting is at Sedgefield Parish Hall on Friday 27th May at 7pm, then at The Catholic Club, Chilton on Wednesday 1st June, 7pm, then The Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe on Thursday 2nd June at 6.30pm.

If people need further information they can ring 01325 321603. Anyone who wants to have their say can also go online and fill in a survey at www.philwilsonmp.co.uk

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Council Changes agreed for Home to School Transport

Changes to rules on home to school transport in County Durham were today (May 25) agreed by councillors.

While the changes will affect new applicants, councillors agreed that those pupils already receiving free transport would continue to do so unless their circumstances change significantly.

Pupils in receipt of free school meals or those who cannot travel independently will continue to have the same entitlement to free transport as they do now.

Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet also agreed that the council would work with partners to explore the possibility of setting up self-financing concessionary transport schemes.

This would be aimed at ensuring that home to school transport remains for those attending faith schools and for rural schools and communities that feel they would be vulnerable as a result of the changes.

Cllr Claire Vasey, Cabinet member for children and young people's services at Durham County Council, said: "Many people took the time to respond to the consultation on this important issue and I thank all those who gave us their views. It is one of the largest responses we have had to any public consultation and I understand many of the concerns people have raised.

"Unfortunately due to significant reductions in Government funding the council must make substantial savings over the coming years. "While we have sought where possible to achieve savings within non-front line services, it

is regrettable that we must also look to reduce our spending on home to school transport.

"I very much hope that the partnership approach that was agreed by Cabinet today will enable the council to work with others to develop alternative solutions to support pupils, their families and schools in the future."

The changes to the home to school or college transport policy were drawn up following an eight-week consultation, which resulted in more than 9,800 responses.

Durham County Council will now be seeking to work with schools, diocesan authorities, parents and other groups to look at the possibility of setting up a self-financing concessionary travel scheme.

The changes to the home to school transport policy have been made as part of the council's work to save £123.5m over the next four years.

The changes to the home to school or college transport policy affect new applicants in the following ways: From September 2011, subsidised home to college transport will not be provided to new students aged over 16.

And from September 2012, unless there is a legal requirement, free transport will not be provided to new pupils attending faith schools, new pupils living less than three miles from their nearest school or to new pupils in some communities to enable them to attend certain schools.

Also from September 2011 charges will be introduced for spare seats on buses and taxis which are used by children not entitled to free transport.

SUMMER BALL AT THE XCEL CENTRE



Volunteer's Malcolm Cundick and Megan Turnell organisers of the Ball.

A touch of glamour is set to come to Aycliffe with the launch of Las Vegas themed Summer Ball! The Viva Las Vegas Cabaret Ball on Saturday 16th July will be held at the Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Guests will indulge in a delicious three course meal, try their hand at the roulette table and end the night with a dance to local soul band "The Soulutions". The fundraising ball is organised by Darlington Arts Academy CIC whose talented cast and live band will pay tribute to some of the greatest Vegas stars by performing their own take on much loved tracks from the likes of Tom Jones, The Supremes, Barry Manilow and of course Elvis Presley!

The Academy is calling for local companies to sponsor

their summer programme following the Ball's launch in the window of Cleancare Laundry and Dry Clean Specialists in Darlington. Cleancare's Manager Debbie Johnson said; 'it's tough for all businesses in this financial climate but by working together we can still support fantastic community projects such as Darlington Arts Academy. Helping to promote Viva Las Vegas as brought lots of attention to our shop window in Skinnergate. The glamorous models reflect the top quality service we offer our customers.'

Tickets cost £25. Book a table of 10 and receive a free bottle of wine! For tickets or details call 01325 734166 or visit www.darlingtonartsacademy.co.uk.

Agnew Centre NEWS

WW2 FASHION SHOW

will be on Saturday June 11th 12.30pm to 2.30pm by the WW11 Re-Enactors North East. There will be some stalls to browse at the same time.

A charge of £2 will include entrance and a Coffee or Tea with Scone, for your tickets contact Margaret Lovelady on 01325 319857 or Ron on 01325 321504/301033 or 07749 236 853

HEALTHY EATING COOKERY COURSE

This will run free for 4 weeks on a Tuesday, June 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th from 2pm to 4pm. All welcome and to book your place ring Secretary on 01325 321504 office, 01325 301033 home or 07749 236 853

MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC

Commencing 2nd June each Thursday at 5.30pm to 8.30pm and to book or for information please contact Darren Anderson on 07801 937 498

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Jimmy a TV star for many years and a firm favourite in the theatres comes to Shildon Civic Hall on Sunday 5th June in an all singing dancing comedy special suitable for all the family whether your three or ninety three.

The show will have a full supporting cast. Tickets are £12.00 and are limited.



To book for this very rare evening call Showcase on 01325 316224.



Saturday 26th May - "UNCLE GILBERT"

RIFFS ONLINE REVIEW - "An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill & Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league" Covering tracks by Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and much more www.unclegilbert.co.uk

Saturday 4th June - "SABBATICA"

an evening of classic BLACK SABBATH music from the ossie era. - Davy's rock page review - "The singer had great presence even managing a stand up comedy routine in the middle of a broken string break. The other three members of the band were excellent, it's unfair to give the lead guitarist all the lime light, but let's face it the lead guitar is like the centre forward, he gets all the attention, and boy did this guy milk it and deliver some great work that left us totally speechless, it's not often we are totally blown away but this guy did it, some of his solos made the hairs on the back of ya neck stand up. The bass was fantastic and the drummer gave an equally great performance, this may sound like we are going over the top but its not hype, we are paying £12 to see a U2 tribute band at the customs house, and to be honest after hearing SABBATICA we would gladly pay the same amount to see them". www.sabbatica.co.uk

Saturday 11th June - "BLACK ICE"

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For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

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Roman Supports Local Charity



Ladies from Roman's Table at the Women's Lunch L-R Emma Appleby – the Works, Sharon Appleby – Gentoo, Shelley McCormack, Sue Peacock, Loraine Henderson and Deborah Green – all Roman, Claire Mitchell – 19 Marketing, Faye Pearson – James Hargreaves Bathrooms, Dawn Abernethy – Bathroom World Darlington and Lucy Groves – 19 Marketing.

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Shower manufacturer, Roman, has been supporting and getting involved with a local charity, by sponsoring one of their key annual fundraising events – the County Durham Community Foundation's (CDCF) Women's Spring Lunch. Roman has worked with the CDCF for many years and has their own community fund set up through the charity which is used to support different causes. This was taken one step further with Roman opting to also act as a sponsor for the charity's annual Women's Lunch Event, which was held in Durham. The lunch raised a total of £3,000 in funds which will go towards the charity's core costs, helping them to be able to continue to support community and voluntary groups across County Durham and Darlington. The Community Foundation manages charitable funds donated by local individuals, families, businesses and trusts, building up a source of long-term support for the community and acting as the vital link between donors and local needs. Roman also donated a luxury bathroom hamper from their Roman at Home online home giftware website, as a raffle prize to further support the day. David Osborne, Managing Director and head of Roman's Charity Committee, commented: "The County Durham Community Foundation is a great scheme for our local area – it allows us to allocate funds to local community groups of all different types. Without this scheme these groups may struggle to survive. The Women's Lunch is a vital event in the charity's calendar as it helps to raise funds to keep the foundation running."

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PRAISE FOR LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORT

County Durham residents with learning disabilities have access to some of the best help and support services in the country, according to a new survey. Inclusion North, which promotes the inclusion of people with learning disabilities, their families and carers, has put Durham County Council among the top authorities in the country for its work in helping people live as independently as possible. The rating follows a self-assessment by the council, which revealed that its performance in most key areas is significantly better than the national average. A relatively low number of people with learning disabilities in the county live in care homes, hospitals and other similar types of accommodation, with a higher proportion than average living in their own homes. The council also has a dedicated housing options officer specifically for people with learning disabilities who supports social workers and families with accommodation issues and works with housing providers to develop new services across the county. The needs of residents with learning disabilities are also included in the authority's

new five-year Housing Strategy. David Shipman, Durham County Council's strategic commissioning manager for learning disability and mental health services, said: "We are very much committed to helping people with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible and currently have more than 600 people who we support in their own tenancies. "We are very pleased to receive recognition from Inclusion North. Their feedback described us as being in the 'top echelon' of local authorities, which is an excellent reflection of our work." The council has also just launched an apartment complex in Bishop Auckland, which provides high quality concierge-controlled accommodation for people with learning disabilities. The development is the result of a partnership with local firm Wight Developments, Sacriston-based support provider Carewatch and community interest company Auckland Home Solutions, which is responsible for managing the property on a day-to-day basis. The authority is also looking at several other potential sites for similar developments.

Family Tennis Day



Jake Mendelsohn, Adam and Tom Ord

"Get Set Kids and Greenfield Tennis Club hosted a family fun tennis event on Saturday 21 May – there was a Zumba warm up courtesy of Jaime Hume, a raffle run by Karen Everson for Lymphoma and Leukaemia Research. It wouldn't have been tennis without strawberries and cream. The weather was kind and we all had a great time with a lot of laughs. Thanks to everyone who attended."



Alison and Grace Proctor

Collecting for Town's Senior Citizens



Star fundraiser Anne Harland, in fancy dress, collected for the town's senior citizens in Herons last Market Day. Donations from shoppers amounted to £146 for which Anne sends her thanks. Thanks also to their Manager for his kind co-operation in allowing the collection.

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WOODHAM STUDENTS & STAFF GO PAINTBALLING



Forty six Year 10 students and nine members of staff from Woodham Community Technology College began their Easter holiday by taking part in a special rewards team building exercise at Point Blank Paintball.

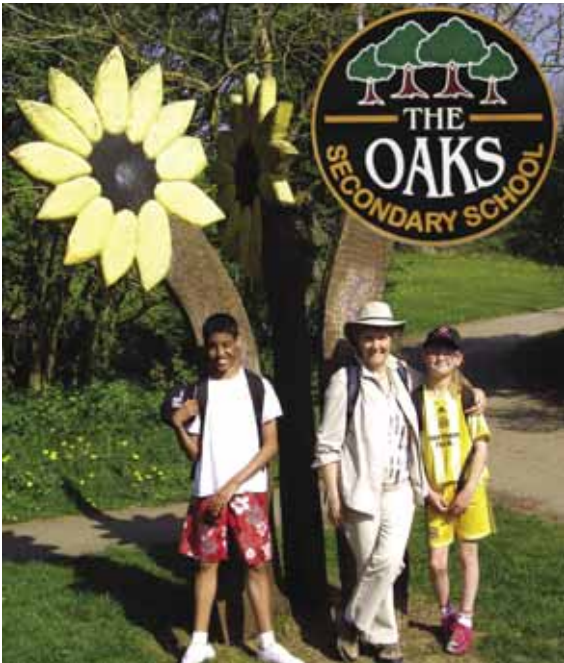
On arrival everybody was kitted out, consumed breakfast, then listened to a crucial, yet amusing and at times rather scary,

safety brief. The teams were then announced and inexplicably all of the teachers found themselves on the same side! But this is not to say it was going to be a whitewash, in fact, far from it!

A variety of paintballing games were played including The Alamo where one team had to defend a fort and Urban Warfare which was set around wrecked cars and trenches. This particular game involved a heroic run across no man's land and deep into enemy territory from Woodham's Network Manager, Andy Flint, to secure 1 of only 2 wins for the side containing the teachers. Staff contemplated whether playing first person shooter video games did actually serve a purpose after all...

Everybody had an excellent time, students learned a variety of skills and most importantly worked as a team and were a credit to the college. The students are already looking forward to the next reward event!

Sponsored Walk to Buy Mini Bus



Andrew Kidd (12) and his friend Amber Savage completed the 5.5 mile Aycliffe Way walk and raised £180.00 towards the purchase of a Mini Bus for "The Oaks School" at Spennymoor.

Andrew and Amber would like to thank everyone who sponsored them. They were accompanied on the walk by Andrews Grandparents Anne and Mel Harland of Newton Aycliffe.

OPEN AUDITIONS TO JOIN NEW AMATEUR THEATRE GROUP

Stage One Productions are a NEW and exciting local amateur theatre group established in 2010 to present plays, comedies and drama to fill the gap in theatrical entertainment in our area. Following the success of our debut production, the comedy play 'Kissing Sid James' by the playwright Robert Farquhar, which was performed at St. Clare's church hall in June 2010, we are now looking at expanding our artistic membership for our line up of forthcoming productions.

If you are an amateur actor or have a desire to take to the stage then we would like to hear from you, we are holding open auditions on **SATURDAY 25th JUNE** at St. Clare's Church, 10am - 3pm. Auditions are by registration only either on the day or in advance. For further info please contact (01325) 318 486 or go to www.stage-one-productions.co.uk



Is 80 the New 70?

More than 70% of drivers and riders think that the UK motorway speed limit should be increased by at least ten mph, according to an IAM poll of over 2000 people.

Not only do people feel that the limit should be higher, almost 60 per cent say they would be more likely to stick to an 80mph limit than they are to the current limit of 70mph.

Nearly 60 per cent of people also admitted to travelling above 70 mph when traffic is free-flowing and uncongested, with 20 per cent of those travelling at 80 mph or faster. The survey reflects the latest DfT research of free-flowing motorway speeds, which found that 52 per cent of cars exceeded the 70 mph speed limit and 16 per cent travel at 80 mph or faster.

IAM director of policy and research Neil Greig said: "Even though motorways are the safest roads, increasing the motorway speed limit is a controversial subject. This is why we want to see a trial to test its impact on road safety, fuel consumption and driver behaviour.

"A new 80 miles per hour limit would need to be properly enforced to make sure that it does not become an excuse to drive at 90."

"Shortening journey times for people travelling at quieter times, as transport secretary Philip Hammond suggests, is a good idea, providing it doesn't have a negative effect on safety."

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OIL & FILTER CHANGE
Inc. Parts & Labour
FROM £29.95 INC VAT
BRAKE PADS
MAJOR SERVICE
PRICES INCLUDE OIL & FILTER (mineral oil) PLUGS, AIR FILTER PLUS: OVER 50 CHECKS AND ADJUSTMENTS CARRIED OUT FOR TURBOS, DIESELS AND VEHICLES OVER 2201cc PLEASE
FROM £95.00
1801cc - 2200cc
FROM £85.00
1001cc - 1800cc
FROM £75.00
UP TO 1000cc
MIDDLESBROUGH | DARLINGTON | CHESTER-LE-STREET | CONSETT
01642 318111 | 01325 389000 | 0191 3874444 | 01207 507777
GATESHEAD | NEWTON AYCLIFFE | CROXDALE DURHAM
0191 4787222 | 01325 321122 | 01388 814062

Youngsters Will Receive School Meals at a Lower Cost

The free school meal pilot will come to an end this September but children will still benefit from lower priced school dinners.

County Durham was chosen, by the Government, as one of only two areas to receive a free school meals pilot in 2009 with up to 30,000 schoolchildren benefiting from a daily hot, nutritious two course meal.

The pilot is coming to an end but Education and Health funds will ensure school meals are lower priced to encourage more families to participate.

There will be a charge of £1.50 per day (£7.50 per week) which is lower than the meals were before the pilot. In some areas of the country the charge is more than £2.00.

School meals must meet strict Government

nutritional guidelines and they are a great way of encouraging children to try new foods as well as contributing to child health and wellbeing.

Durham County Council is promoting the changes to the scheme with leaflets (funded by The Schools Food Trust) for parents which will be available from schools this week.

Councillor Claire Vasey, elected member with responsibility for children and young people, said: "In addition to saving you money, having your child take a school meal will save you time shopping, preparing and making their lunch. It's also worth remembering that due to the free meals pilot, lots of schools have had their kitchens and equipment upgraded leaving a long term benefit for pupils and staff."

VOLUNTEERS SPRING CLEAN LOCAL ROADS

Heighington Parish Litter Group (HPLG) is delighted to report that on the 14th May 2011 a good number of people living in Heighington Parish and School Aycliffe, and several members from the Heighington Baden Powell Scout Group took part in the Grand Spring Clean Litter Pick.

In two hours, 14 adults and 4 children collected over 30 bags of rubbish and large discarded articles around the verges of roads running through Redworth, School Aycliffe and Heighington. We were blessed with a dry day, although a little windy, but the uncut verge made our task somewhat challenging.

At the end of the litter pick the participants returned to Heighington Village Hall for refreshments provided by Mr and Mrs Smyth. Mr Smyth, Chairman of HPLG, will be presenting the children with a special certificate to mark their contribution. The picture shows some of the Scout Leaders, Scouts and Beavers on their return to the Village Hall for refreshment.

The Group will continue with the regular monthly litter picks on the second Saturday of each month. The next pick takes place on 11th June 2011 between 10.00am and 12.00noon. We will be pleased to welcome new participants of all ages.

Our meeting points for the picks, where help and tools are handed out, are Heighington Village Hall, 2 Main Road in Redworth and Old Farm Cottage in School Aycliffe. Refreshment as usual will be served after the



pick in Heighington Village Hall. For more information please look out for posters around the Parish. I hope you agree that this little

effort makes a great contribution to keeping our outdoor environment clean and tidy.
Lou Bedocs

EVENTS AT BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN HALL

TEA DANCE
Tuesday 31st May
1.30-3.30pm. Cost: £2.00.

READING GROUP
Thursday 2nd June
10.00am-12noon.
Free event in the Library.

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Served between 12noon and 2pm
Tuesdays
Mince & Dumpling Dinner or Pasties,
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or Ham & Cheese - £2.00
Thursdays
Chicken Curry with Rice or Chips or Veggy
Broth plus a Bun or Cheesey Bread - £2.00
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ALWAYS AVAILABLE
Come and enjoy good food and a chat

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SIMPLY SEARCH newton-news

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Durham
DH1 5LX

Tel: 0191 384 3452

4 Cobblers Hall
Burn Lane
Newton Aycliffe
DL5 4SE

Tel: 01325 319 722

FIVE YEAR SERVICE AWARD FOR VOLUNTEER



Margaret, Deborah and Chelsie at Sue Ryder Charity Shop

Sue Ryder Charity shop in Newton Aycliffe is part of a national charity providing palliative care to people with end of life and long term conditions such as cancer, MS, strokes and brain injuries.

To maintain the high standard of care they provide they rely on the generosity of the public and the goodwill of volunteers who give their time and support.

Currently they have over 6000 volunteers nationally and they have honoured Deborah Lowther at Newton Aycliffe with a five year Service Award as a valued member of the team, hard working and reliable.

If anyone reading this would like to join us please call in for more information over a cuppa with Manager Chelsie or new Assistant Manager Margaret.

SOUPA LUNCH IN AYCLIFFE

St. Elizabeth's Church, are holding their regular Soup-a-Lunch in the Church Hall on June 1st at 12.45 pm. The cost is £2.50 and this includes a bowl of hot soup with a roll and butter, a sweet and a cup of tea or coffee. If you would like to come please give Angela a call on 319067

NEW TIME FOR BACK EXERCISE CLASS

The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe has changed the time for the special back exercise class on Wednesday evenings to 6.30-7.30pm commencing Wednesday 25th May, an ideal time for people finishing work.

The classes which cost £3.50 per session are delivered by Katie Morland an experienced and qualified physiotherapist who also works for the NHS. Katie says 'The exercises suit all ages and abilities and are beneficial if you suffer from any neck, back or joint problems by strengthening the muscles as well as alleviating pain'.

For further details and to book your place please contact the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234.

Brownies at Fire Station



Would You Like to Train as an Adviser?

Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau are looking for local people to train as volunteer advice workers. Our volunteer adviser training programme offers first rate training which is also recognised by other organisations. You need to be willing to give a minimum of 6 hours a week to the service and in return you will gain the necessary training and skills to become a competent advice worker. If you don't think advising is for you we

have a number of other roles which may interest you, such as clerical officer and receptionist.

Or are you a University student, home for the summer looking for some work experience? We also have some roles available on a short term basis which may add extra value to your C.V. If you are interested in volunteering with us please contact Sandra Richardson 01388 825403 for an application pack.

6th Newton Aycliffe Brownies (St Clares) thank White Watch at Newton Aycliffe Fire Station. for kindly allowing them to attend the fire station over two Friday evenings in order to achieve their Fire Safety badge. As you can see from the picture, the Brownies really enjoyed their tour of the fire station, fire truck and were even allowed to use the fire hose for some target practice. Once again a huge thank you for making us feel so welcome.

move on homes
Newton Press Buildings, St. Cuthberts Way
Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX
Tel: 01325 311737
www.moveonhomes.co.uk

Silkin Way
Newton Aycliffe
£87,000

2 bedroom terrace house, located in a corner plot of this popular area. double glazing and gas central heating

Chillingham Grove
Woodham Village
£115,000

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

Wren Close
Newton Aycliffe
£110,000

A well maintained mid terrace 3 bed property. Bathroom/WC, modern kitchen, DG, GCH, garage with garden. Immediate vacant possession, we advise internal inspection

Yarrow Court
Woodham Village
£109,995

A realistically priced 3 bed semi detached property. Fitted kitchen/diner. Modern Bathroom/WC, GCH, private Garden and driveway

Byerley Road
Shildon
£75,000

3 bedroom terrace house

Clover Court
Woodham Village
£161,950

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

Cheltenham Way
Woodham Village
£179,500

Realistically priced 4 bedroom detached, ensuite shower room, refitted modern kitchen, GCH, garage and gardens

Prospect Terrace
Chilton
£74,950

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

Beechfield
Newton Aycliffe
£97,000

4 bedroom terrace family home. Lounge/dining room, modern fitted kitchen, garage, double glazing and gardens

Farnham Close
Woodham Village
£64,950

A one bedroom first floor flat. Quiet cul-de-sac location. Refitted bathroom/WC. Updated kitchen, double glazed. Ideal starter home

Mellanby Crescent
Newton Aycliffe
£122,000

An impressive 3 bedroom detached property, well maintained, which benefits from GCH & DG

Osric Place
Newton Aycliffe
£75,000

Much improved 3 bedroom end link terrace home, fitted kitchen, double glazed, GCH, rear garden, well maintained home - must be viewed.

KARLES CLOSE, Cobblers Hall - £235,000
4 bedroom detached
BEWICK CRESCENT, Newton Aycliffe - £87,850
2 bedroom end terrace
CHELTENHAM WAY, Woodham Village - £164,950
3 bedroom detached
CHELTENHAM WAY, Woodham Village - £205,000
3 bedroom bungalow
DURHAM ROAD, Spennymoor - £45,000
1 bedroom ground floor flat
RICHARDSON WALK, Newton Aycliffe - £90,000
3 bedroom end terrace
LAYTON COURT, Newton Aycliffe - £109,950
2 bedroom semi detached
BURNYNHILL CLOSE, School Aycliffe - £215,000
3 bedroom detached
HEILD CLOSE, Newton Aycliffe - £73,000
2 bedroom mid terrace
ANNAND WAY, Cobblers Hall - £165,000
3 bedroom detached
MALVERN WAY, Newton Aycliffe - £164,950
2 bedroom bungalow
HEATHERBURN COURT, Woodham - £89,500
3 bedroom end link

WANTED
2, 3 and 4 Bedroom Properties in the Newton Aycliffe area - Buyers Waiting For Sale and To Rent

After 17 years Aycliffe Couple Have a Chance to Get Married

Kelly Easom and her fiancé Michael Finch moved to Newton Aycliffe 15 years ago from Nottingham and have never been able to afford to get married.

The couple are really keen to get hitched and Michael has asked Kelly to name the date three times, each time giving her a new ring.

Three rings later, they now have an opportunity to win a wedding in a competition organised by the Northern Echo. All they need to do is get friends and, hopefully, readers of Newton News to vote for them!

Kelly who has worked at Tesco's for 5 years is getting her workmates to vote and Michael, employed at Appletree Joinery on the Business Park is drumming up support there.

People can vote by phone 0901 360 0858, or by text 80360 starting with winawedding then leave a space and add 0858. You can also vote on a coupon in the Echo by filling in the number 0858 and sending it to the office. You can vote as many times as you wish.



FILM TIME IN AYCLIFFE

The Woodham Movie Dome at St. Elizabeth's Church Hall, had such a successful night with the King's Speech that we sold out of tickets. For those who were disappointed we are repeating the showing on Friday 3rd of June at 7pm. Light refreshments will be served prior to the film show. If you would be interested in coming along please give Brian a call on 319067

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HARDWICK HALL HOTEL
THICKSFIELD, CO. DURHAM

JUNE 2011

Sunday 5th June 11.00am - 4.00pm
WEDDING OPEN DAY

Friday 10th June
THE 80's EXPERIENCE
2 course Buffet £10.95 per person

Friday 17th June
NIGHT FEVER at the 70's DISCO
2 course Buffet £10.95 per person

Friday 24th June
THE BRAINSTORMER MURDERS
3 course Dinner £20.95 per person

Our popular Sunday Lunch is served in the Bayne Suite accompanied by music from our resident pianist.

4 courses including coffee
£18.95 per person

T: 01740 620253
E: info@hardwickhallhotel.co.uk
www.hardwickhallhotel.co.uk

Appeal for Volunteers

Can you spare some time to help someone in your community enjoy local life a little more?

County Durham Care and Support is appealing for committed and enthusiastic people to help adults who need support in order to lead a more fulfilling life.

The Durham County Council service, which works with older people and those with learning and physical

disabilities or mental health issues, wants to boost its already well-established volunteer team.

Volunteers, who will be matched with people based on their skills and experience, could be asked to help someone to participate in activities at a day centre or use services within their local community.

Phil Emberson, County Durham Care and Support Operations Manager, said: "Volunteers are a great asset in the provision of social care services, bringing new skills, interests and innovations."

"Whatever their background or motivation, whether it's simply giving something back to the community or using the work as a step towards a career goal, everyone has something of value to offer."

Volunteers should be patient and have good communication skills and will receive training and valuable work experience in exchange for their time.

They will be required to undergo a CRB check and provide two references.

For more information about becoming a volunteer contact Karen Vasey, Durham County Council support and recovery team manager, on 0191 383 5168 or email karen.vasey@durham.gov.uk

Lunch Date at Oak Leaf

Do you work in or around Newton Aycliffe? What do you do in your lunch break? Forget the sandwiches, and come along to the Oak Leaf Sports Complex where we can offer you a game of Badminton, Squash or Table Tennis.

All from £5.50 per court, call in and speak to our friendly staff about your requirements or telephone 01325 300600 for more information.

If sport is not your thing but you would like a change of scenery, why not pop in and try out our extensive menu in comfortable and friendly bar surroundings.

Ladies Lunch in Aid of Butterwick Hospice



Butterwick Hospice at Bishop Auckland is staging a ladies lunch at the Park Head Country Hotel in Bishop Auckland on Wednesday 8th June from 11am until 3.00pm.

Ladies are invited to have a late morning cuppa then browse the elegant craft and feminine merchandise that include handbags, scarves, jewellery, homewares and a range of scrumptious cup cakes.

The day includes a fashion show and a tribute to Mary Butterwick OBE, who against all odds followed her dream to provide better care

for people with life – limiting illness and their families, care that she and her late husband, John were heartbreakingly denied.

Her inspiring story has now been published; signed copies of her book will be available on the day.

The day offers a traditional country lunch of roast beef, summer vegetables, and strawberries and cream, tea and coffee, a vegetarian option is also available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance £15 per head : Tel 01388 603003 or Email lynnalbury@butterwick.org.uk for further details.

Harvest Christian Centre
at the BETHANY CENTRE
Woodham Way, Woodham
SUNDAYS 10.30am
www.harvestchristiancentre.org.uk
Telephone 01325 308284
"A Growing Family Church"



SSAFA Help in Aycliffe

Dear Editor

I read in the Newton News, about the Forces day event on page 7 and mention of SSAFA FORCES Help Alas the details about the local branch of SSAFA FORCES HELP recorded in the notice are wrong, the number given was for the Central office in London, our local division of SSAFA FORCES HELP telephone/fax/answering machine number is, (01325) 319099, email ssafa@bakdoc.plus.com

Last year (2009-2010) we spent over £59,000 just in our division helping our service friends and families who had fallen on bad times through no fault of their own. We are indeed very grateful to community groups for hosting fund raising events, to allow to us continue in our endeavour. For one day of regular service, SSAFA FORCES HELP give a lifetime of support SSAFA FORCES HELP use local traders whenever possible and tend to look in the Newton News for them, before commissioning the service.

Thank you for your continued support
Brian Wilson

PACT Meeting Police & Community Together

PC 1452 Alan Thompson will be holding a Police and Community Together PACT meeting at Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 2nd June 2011 from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

The meeting is open to all members of the community and you can discuss any issues or concerns you may have with your Community Police Officer.

Councillors and Representatives from Great Aycliffe Town Council and Durham County Council have been invited.

OPEN LETTER TO OUR M.P. ON WIND FARM

Dear Phil
thank you for your leaflet regarding the building of wind turbines near to Newton Aycliffe that arrived through my door today. I actually believe that wind turbines are a good thing, and that it is actually more beneficial to concentrate them in specific areas rather than to spread them out.

However I also think it wise that planners consider the general spread and overall effect of such wind farms rather than considering each application on it's own. You also hinted previously in the newspaper that energy companies might sweeten the blow by providing local residents with discounted energy tariffs which I think would be a great move.

On Teesside we had large petro-chemical and steel works concentrated together. Yes they looked ugly, but at least we didn't have one or two every few miles along the coast. As a result the infrastructure needed to support them could be better developed, incident and

accidents could rely on a local response, that was trained and experienced in such matters. I'm not suggesting that wind farms would pose the same kind of hazards, but technicians wouldn't need to travel so far (reducing their carbon foot print too), and general views of the wide open spaces of Co Durham could still be enjoyed. We have a duty for our children and their children in times to come to use as little non-renewable energy resources as possible. I'm not a hippy-greenie, just an ordinary Labour supporter who wants to see the best future for his kids. And if that means looking at a few dozen windmills every time I pop to the shops then that is a small price to pay. I would rather have one large farm than multiple sites dotted across Co Durham each generating it's own spoil on the landscape.

Thus I would like you to support the application in principle, whilst pushing for a government controlled strategy on energy supplies.
Sean Barnett

Prices at the Pump			
TESCO			
PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT			
TESCO Newton Aycliffe		TESCO Tindale Crescent	
PETROL	DIESEL	PETROL	DIESEL
133.9	136.9	127.9	133.9
MORRISON'S North Road, Darlington		Sainsbury's Tindale Crescent	
PETROL	DIESEL	PETROL	DIESEL
132.9	134.9	127.9	133.9
JET Shildon		JET McDonalds	
PETROL	DIESEL	PETROL	DIESEL
131.9	137.9	134.9	140.9
TOTAL Aycliffe Business Park		TOTAL Woodham Village	
PETROL	DIESEL	PETROL	DIESEL
134.9	138.9	136.9	140.9

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Club Weekend at Seahouses



The JAFFA Club and the Brownies of Burnhill Way Methodist Church would like to thank Councillors Rev. Mike Dixon, Mrs Enid Paylor and Honest John for their generous contribution to the children's weekend trip to Seahouses on the 29th April.

They had a wonderful weekend of activities and taking part in a mock wedding with appropriate celebrations.

On the Sunday the children went to the church next door and taught the congregation two action songs.

Walking to New Heights

Places are still available for teams to scale the UK's highest peaks in just one weekend for the British Heart Foundation (BHF).

The National Three Peaks Challenge takes place from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 June. Teams will climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon. Participants must be over the age of 18. For more information, contact 0800 169 3672, email northwestwales@bhf.org.uk or visit bhf.org.uk/n3p

AYCLIFFE COUPLE BID TO WIN A WEDDING



A second Newton Aycliffe couple have entered the Northern Echo competition to win a wedding. Mark Blythe and Lyndsey Jones of Byerley Park need votes in their quest for a dream wedding, having been together for 7 years.

They have three children and hope Newtonians will support them with votes before the closing date 12th June. Their number by phone is 0901 360 0877; by text: 80360 starting with winawedding then a space followed by 0877. There is also a voting coupon each day in the Echo.

1000 Mile Road Race Completed in £500k Car



"What's On" magazine proprietor Julian Pigg along with co driver Simon deBurton completed the Mille Miglia (Thousand Miles) in Italy, - one of the world's oldest and most prestigious races.

They entered in a 1955 Mercedes 300SL valued at £500,000 and finished a creditable 3/4 of the way down the field. As first time entrants, and driving on the 'wrong' side of the road, much of it at night, and having never seen the route before, they are quite pleased with their performance.

Other drivers were in more powerful cars and included ex F1 driver Jochen Mass, 15 times World GP Bike Champion Giacomo Agostini, and flying Finn Mika Häkkinen.

"What's On" Round Darlington, is the area's longest established (1984) free magazine and is printed at Newton Press for the publishers.

Have Your Say on Future of Community Alarm Service

Elderly and vulnerable people are being asked for their views on how a round-the-clock emergency helpline should be provided in the future.

Durham County Council is currently reviewing its community alarm and telecare services and is seeking feedback from the public and partners as part of the process.

Used by more than 17,000 people across the county, the service provides people with an alarm in their home which is linked direct to a 24-hour control centre.

Denise Elliott, Durham County Council's strategic commissioning manager for adult services, said: "We are fully committed to ensuring that vulnerable people

have access to high quality and appropriate alarm and telecare services and we are, therefore, seeking the views of residents, their carers and families, professionals, our partners and the public.

"We want to gather information on what type of service people would like to receive and how this can best be provided.

"The feedback we receive will play a major part in helping us to plan and develop our services for the coming years."

Community alarm services have been provided in the county for more than 20 years, enabling users to instantly call on family, friends, health and social care staff or a mobile warden

for help.

The council currently subsidises the service for 13,000 users through its Supporting People Grant, while a further 4,000 residents pay for the subscription charge themselves.

The public consultation runs until Friday, 17 June. Comments can be submitted by visiting the council's website and clicking on the Have Your Say link.

Alternatively, call 0191 372 5498, email acs.commissioning@durham.gov.uk or write to Community Alarm Consultation, Commissioning Policy and Planning Officer, Durham County Hall, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UG.

Return of Keys to Youth Centre

The Youth Centre are holding a Key Amnesty over Whit Week and are requesting anyone who has keys to return them as a number are unaccounted for.

The alarm system is being updated so it is important keys are handed in and signed for on the following dates and time:

Tuesday 30th May: 9.30am - 10.30am, Wednesday 1st June: 9.30am-10.30am and 5pm - 7pm; Thursday 2nd June: 9.30am - 10.30am; Friday 3rd June: 9.30am - 10.30am and 5pm- 7pm

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 and Saturday 9.00am to 2.00pm



Great Aycliffe Town Council

Council Offices - School Aycliffe Lane - Newton Aycliffe - Co. Durham DL5 6QF
Telephone: 01325 300700 • Fax: 01325 301053
Email: info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk • Website: www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk



ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11

27th May 2011

Foreword by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mrs Dorothy Bowman

I have many happy memories to remind me of my year as Mayor of Great Aycliffe Town Council including representing the Town on two Royal visits. This has been a very busy year for me with my work as the Mayor and being a Town Councillor on top of my work as a County Councillor and being active as part of the Area Action Partnership. I have enjoyed the company of my grandson, Richard, who has been my Consort throughout this busy year. I am looking forward to finally having time to visit an orphanage in Romania and taking toys and gifts for the children.



It has been my pleasure to meet many residents of the town who were celebrating special occasions. I presented many sports achievement awards, met many young people and attended a number of charity and fund raising events. Yet, I have still found time to work with the Junior Neighbourhood Watch and the New Friends New Places group who are very important to me and have just received charity status.

The nominated charities for my year as Mayor were Chyrelle Addams Breast Cancer Trust and Wear Valley Women's Aid. I would like to thank everyone who helped me raise £5194.00 which was split between these charities.

The Town Council endeavours to rise to all challenges whilst focussing on the community's needs and continuing to improve our services. This annual report is intended to provide a brief summary of some key achievements from the past year, an overview of financial information and a snapshot of the year to come.

SOME KEY THINGS WE DID LAST YEAR

- ✓ Held the Town Council portion of the Council Tax at the same level as last year.
- ✓ Achieved £213,036 savings across all service areas which has been added to council balances. This will enable us to continue to deliver all of our services to you without the need to make cuts.
- ✓ Refurbished School Aycliffe Play Area following consultation with the residents and Aycliffe Youth Council.
- ✓ Started mapping the Town Council owned land and property onto an electronic Geographical Information System which has proved very helpful.
- ✓ Planning permission has been sought for additional allotments at St Oswald's allotment site and the project is on-going.
- ✓ With joint funding from the Great Aycliffe Area Action Partnership, various improvements have taken place along the Great Aycliffe Way and a new leaflet has been published.
- ✓ Refurbished the toilets at Stephenson Way Cemetery and St. Oswald's Park, including the provision of a separate accessible toilet.
- ✓ The Environment Officer has been working really hard with the schools and communities of Great Aycliffe holding over 150 activities and events.

- ✓ Undertook a very successful dog fouling and litter awareness campaign in conjunction with Durham County Council.
- ✓ Held another successful Town Pride Environment Week working with the Youth Council, local schools and volunteers.

A message from the new Mayor, Councillor Mrs Mary Dalton

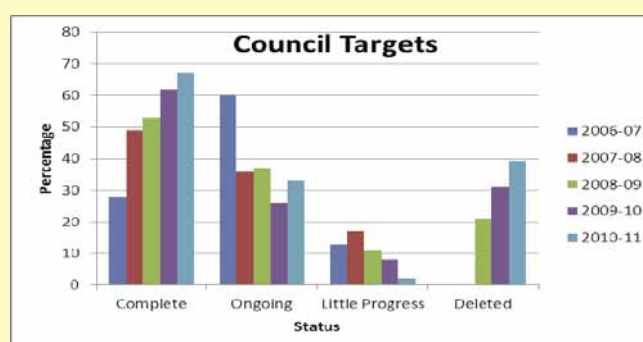
I am looking forward to another year as Mayor and representing the Town Council in an official capacity. I have undertaken this very important role a number of times over the last few years and always enjoy the experience, even though it is hard work. The charities I have chosen for my year in office are North East Army Benevolent Fund and various organisations from the Town. The Town Council has been working very hard to find cost savings, yet still deliver the high level of services the residents of Great Aycliffe have become accustomed to.

The hard times continue for many of our residents. So it is reassuring to know in these difficult financial times the Town Council, due to its hard work, is well placed to meet the challenges that the ongoing uncertainty in the economy will bring. We are likely to be able to maintain the relatively healthy state of our finances over the next few years, without needing to make cuts to important community services, lose staff or increase the Council Tax substantially.

We encourage the residents of Great Aycliffe to engage with the Town Council and make their views known. We have a customer panel where residents can be actively involved in Town Council business and we are always looking for new members. Please contact the Town Council Offices 01325 300700 for further details. Or, why not attend one of our Council or committee meetings to see for yourself what goes on. Everyone is welcome.

We will continue to work with the residents of Great Aycliffe and ensure we take into account your views and act upon your priorities in order to improve our services for YOU. We continue to invest and improve our green spaces and have offered to work with partners where possible to safeguard these places.

The table below shows progress on the Council targets over the previous 5 years. Regular reports are provided to both Councillors and the Customer Panel who have the opportunity to discuss progress on individual items.



SOME KEY TARGETS FOR THIS YEAR

The Town Council constantly strives to provide excellent services for its residents. Some of our key targets for 2011/2012 are:

- We are aiming to once again freeze the Town Council portion of the Council Tax.
- Continue to provide value for money for our services.
- Continue to look for efficiency savings in all our work.
- Improve Byerley Park Play Area.
- Provide a separate toddler play area at the Town Park.
- Develop a woodland area along Woodham Burn in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- Undertake 40 public environmental events.
- Undertaken 60 school environmental engagements.
- Improve our partnership working.
- Improve our community engagement.
- Through our improved website we will offer local communities the chance to promote their organisations.

AIMS AND TARGETS 2011/2012

AIM 1 "TO PROVIDE GOOD QUALITY GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL"

- 1 Publish a Parish Performance Plan by 30th June.
- 2 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion on the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3 Quarterly performance reports are presented to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 4 Deliver the Internal Audit Plan Schedule of Work and report to Council.
- 5 Hold quarterly team meetings or staff supervision sessions to discuss training needs and generate new ideas.
- 6 Provide an annual training list, developed from the team meetings and any supervision sessions.
- 7 Provide a Members and Town Clerk training programme to comply with guidance for Quality Status.
- 8 Undertake a review of all records and filing systems annually to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.
- 9 Improve advertising of Council facilities and services by targeting a service area in each publication.
- 10 Provide apprenticeship/learning opportunities to give young people work experience.
- 11 Undertake a town wide questionnaire consultation exercise.

AIM 2 "TO MANAGE THE COUNCIL'S FINANCES AND ASSETS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER"

- 12 Produce annual statement of accounts by 30th June.
- 13 Achieve an unqualified audit opinion of the accounts by 30th June.
- 14 Ensure the Medium Term Financial Plan is approved by 30th June each year.
- 15 Complete any government returns electronically by the relevant deadline.
- 16 Aim to deliver 3% efficiency savings.
- 17 Implement any works highlighted in the Asset Management Plan, prioritised by Disability Discrimination Act compliance.
- 18 Quarterly budgetary control reports are presented to Policy & Resources Committee.
- 19 Undertake a review of all Council risks every March and report to Council.
- 20 Budgets/Precepts approved by 31st January 2012.
- 21 Map all Town Council owned land, buildings and other assets onto the Geographical Information System.
- 22 Undertake an annual update of the Asset Register.
- 23 Undertake an annual review of the schedule of expected life and replacement costs for plant and machinery and build into the capital works programme as necessary.
- 24 Undertake a review of the waste disposal options and costs available to the Town Council.
- 25 Undertake and complete a programme of roof surveys of Council owned buildings.

AIM 3 "TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE LEISURE FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

- 26 Deliver 40 public countryside events.
- 27 Plant a woodland area along Woodham Burn to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
- 28 Deliver the Council's programme of special events.
- 29 Pursue the opening of additional allotments at St Oswald's Park/allotments.
- 30 Expand the activities offered at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.
- 31 Maximise on the possible closure of neighbouring facilities and increase the number of people accessing the indoor bowling facility.
- 32 Complete the programme of asset management planned work at the Oakleaf Sports Complex.

AIM 4 "TO PROVIDE PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AS APPROPRIATE IN GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 33 Achieve successful Ofsted inspection results (if undertaken).
- 34 Aim to maximise child numbers at both pre-schools.

AIM 5 "TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF AYCLIFFE BY MANAGING AND DEVELOPING PARKS, PLAY AREAS AND GREEN SPACES"

- 35 Environment Officer to work with local schools and community groups to develop volunteer opportunities.
- 36 Work with the Youth Council, schools, community and voluntary groups to hold a Town Pride Environment Day.

- 37 Undertake improvements to Byerley Park Play Area.
- 38 Install a toddler play area within the Town Park.
- 39 Work with Sedgefield Borough Homes to pursue the land transfer of the area known as Seven Hills.
- 40 Work with Durham County Council and present a case for the Town Council to take over certain green spaces to help improve these areas.
- 41 Continue to provide a limited snow clearing and gritting service on behalf of Durham County Council.
- 42 Undertake a range of improvements to Aycliffe Nature Park.

AIM 6 "TO HELP AND ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 43 Support and encourage Aycliffe Youth Council (AYC) by:
Organising the election process.
Holding at least 8 meetings a year.
Helping to organise at least 1 project a year.
- 44 Working with other groups to develop community activities to encourage pride in Great Aycliffe.
- 45 Work with partners and assist with initiatives to reduce litter.
- 46 Working in partnership with Network Rail, The Bishop Line and others to adopt Aycliffe Train Station.

AIM 7 "TO ENCOURAGE THE RESIDENTS OF GREAT AYCLIFFE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY"

- 47 Hold at least 5 Customer Panel meetings with the residents of Great Aycliffe.
- 48 Hold a budget setting consultation meeting with the Customer Panel.
- 49 Hold a Parish Meeting.
- 50 Hold an Allotment AGM.
- 51 Hold 6 allotment representative meetings.
- 52 Provide information about elections, the need to register to vote, how to become a Councillor, etc, on the Council's website.
- 53 Hold or take part in at least 2 events to inform residents about Town Council services.
- 54 Develop a Welcome Pack for new residents to highlight the facilities provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council.
- 55 Develop a Guide to Town Council Services, setting out the responsibilities of the Town Council and what facilities it provides, along with a list of useful contacts.
- 56 Investigate options for setting up a Senior Citizens' Panel to gather information regarding the needs of our older residents.

AIM 8 "TO RESEARCH INFORMATION AND MAKE THE CASE FOR GREAT AYCLIFFE"

- 57 Produce timely responses to all major consultations carried out.
- 58 Undertake benchmarking and research where appropriate for new policies and procedures.
- 59 Keep up to date with any changes in legislation and report to Council as and when required.

BYERLEY PARK, HORNDALE & COBBLERS HALL WARD



Dorothy Bowman
Lab - Tel. 308094



Ian Gray
Lab - Tel. 313770



Vincent Crosby
Lab - Tel. 315083



Brian Hall
Lab - Tel. 314105



Irene Hewitson
Ind - Tel. 318763



Alison Palmer
Lab - Tel. 07810 170325

WOODHAM NORTH WARD



Barbara A. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



John D. Clare
Lab - Tel. 318333



Mary Dalton
Lab - Tel. 320499



Joan Gray
Lab - Tel. 313778



Sandra Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318645



Keith Henderson
Lab - Tel. 319542

KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

WOODHAM SOUTH WARD



Paul Gittins
Ind - Tel. 317666



Valerie M. Raw
Lab - Tel. 311447



William Iveson
Lab - Tel. 312490

AYCLIFFE VILLAGE



Bill Blenkinsopp
Lib Dem - Tel. 788893

SIMPASTURE WARD



Alan Warburton
Ind - Tel. 315182



Malcolm Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759

WEST WARD



Steve Bambridge
Ind - Tel. 300195



Raymond Bowman
Lab - Tel. 308094



Kate Hopper
Lab - Tel. 314697



George C. Gray
Ind - Tel. 314934



Enid M. Paylor
Lab - Tel. 313697



Bill Curtis
Ind - Tel. 320291

SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S WARD



Robert S. Fleming
Lab - Tel. 310025



Brian Haigh
Ind - Tel. 318645



Terry Hogan
Ind - Tel. 313828

NEVILLE WARD



Sarah J. Iveson
Lab - Tel. 319759



George R. Gray
Ind - Tel. 304480



Paul Ducker - Ind
Tel. 07950 351830

THE SENIOR OFFICERS WITHIN THE COUNCIL ARE

Town Clerk
Corporate & Policy Officer
Finance Manager
Works Manager

Andrew Bailey
Christine Walton
Dan Austin
Don Thompson

info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
christine.walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
dan.austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

Complex Manager
Environment Officer
Early Years Officer
Senior Admin Officer

Judith Simpson
Steven Cooper
Jackie Swainston
Christine Ryder

judith.simpson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
jackie.swainston@great-aycliffe.gov.uk
christine.ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011 / 2012

COUNCIL (All Members of the Council)
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton (Mayor), Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw (Deputy Mayor)

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors S. Bambridge, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

RECREATION COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors S. Bambridge, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (24 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors S. Bambridge, Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. Curtis, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, G.C. Gray, I. Gray, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, Mrs. S. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, T. Hogan, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson, Mrs. A. Palmer, Mrs. E.M. Paylor, Mrs. V.M. Raw and A. Warburton.

SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS - (Policy and Resources Committee)
SERVICE REVIEW WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)
GENERAL APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (Members chosen as necessary from Parent Committee)
PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE (9 Members + Mayor OR Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors V. Crosby, B. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, M. Iveson, Mrs. E.M. Paylor and Mrs. V.M. Raw.
APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE (9 Members + Mayor OR Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, G.C. Gray, G.R. Gray, Mrs. K. Hopper, Mrs. S.J. Iveson, W. Iveson and A. Warburton.
AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE (6 Members + Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio)
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, J.D. Clare, Mrs. M. Dalton, P. Ducker, B. Hall, M. Iveson, W. Iveson and Mrs. V.M. Raw.
ASSET MANAGEMENT MEMBER WORKING GROUP (9 Members)
Councillors J.D. Clare, B. Curtis, P. Ducker, R.S. Fleming, Mrs. J. Gray, B. Haigh, K. Henderson, Mrs. K. Hopper and M. Iveson.
CHARGES WORKING GROUP (Chairmen and Vice-Chairman of Environment, Recreation and Policy and Resources Committees)
Councillors J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, R.S. Fleming, I. Gray, B. Hall and M. Iveson.

WORKING GROUPS - (Recreation Committee)
GOLF COURSE WORKING GROUP (3 Members)
Councillors R.S. Fleming, B. Hall and M. Iveson
SPORTS COMPLEX WORKING GROUP (Members chosen as necessary)
SHOW WORKING GROUP (7 Members + Chairman & Vice-Chair of Recreation)
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, T.R. Bowman, P. Ducker, G.C. Gray, B. Hall, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson, Mrs. S.J. Iveson and Mrs. E.M. Paylor.

SUB-COMMITTEE – (Environment Committee)
PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE(10 Members)
Councillors T.R. Bowman, Mrs. B.A. Clare, J.D. Clare, V. Crosby, B. Haigh, B. Hall, K. Henderson, Mrs. K. Hopper, M. Iveson and A. Warburton.

MAYOR'S ANNUAL EVENTS

The following Civic Dates have now been finalised for the the newly appointed Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton.
Mayor “At Home” - Wednesday, 29th June 2011 at the Council Offices - 2.00 p.m.
Civic Service - Sunday, 24th July 2011 at St. Clare’s Church, Newton Aycliffe - 10.00 a.m.
Charity Golf Tournament - Friday, 9th September 2011 at Oakleaf Golf Complex
Town Community Carol Service - Sunday, 11th December 2011 - Xcel Centre - 2.30 p.m. to 4p.m.
Civic Carol Service - Sunday, 18th December 2011 at St. Clare’s Church - 6 p.m.
Civic Dinner and Dance - Friday, 17th February 2012 - Summerson Suite, Hall Garth Hotel - 7 p.m.



REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2011/12

- (a) Youth Council
Councillors V. Crosby, Mrs. K. Hopper, A. Warburton and the Corporate & Policy Officer
(b) County Durham Association of Local Councils
Councillors R.S. Fleming, J.D. Clare and the Town Clerk.
(c) Citizens’ Advice Bureau
Councillor M. Iveson (Councillor B. Hall – Reserve)
(d) Woodham Village Community Association
Councillors Mrs. J. Gray and K. Henderson
(e) Great Aycliffe and Middridge A.A.P. Local Council’s Committee
Councillors R.S. Fleming, B. Hall and the Town Clerk.
(f) Countryside Volunteers
Councillors V. Crosby, I. Gray and A. Warburton
(g) Larger Local Councils’ Forum
Councillors R.S. Fleming, J.D. Clare and the Town Clerk.
(h) Lifelong Learning Committee
Councillors Mrs. D. Bowman, V. Crosby and R.S. Fleming.
(i) Normandy Veterans’ Association
Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton
(j) Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre
Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper
(k) Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Councillors I. Gray, Mrs. D. Bowman and B. Haigh

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Table with 4 columns: Date, Topic, Date, Topic. Rows include meetings from May 2011 to April 2012. All meetings commence at 7.15 p.m.

* The Recreation Committee will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.
2nd MAY, 2012 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m. (**)
9th MAY, 2012 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.
(* *) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council’s area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).

MEMBERS’ ALLOWANCES
Listed below for public disclosure is the allowances and other expenses claimed by the Council’s Elected Members during the financial year 2010/11 in line with statutory requirements as set out in the Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2004.
Table with 7 columns: Surname, Forenames, Title, Total Payment, Allowance, Subsistence, Mileage Claim. Rows list all council members and their respective allowances.
Subsistence figures are for Conferences – As per approved Members Allowance Scheme

Annual Report on the Council's Finances 2010/11

1. Introduction

Welcome to the annual report on the Council's finances. This report sets out a summary of the Council's spending plans for 2011/12 as represented by the Revenue and Capital Budget and explains how this is funded by the council tax payers of the Parish. The report also provides a summary of the Council's financial performance in 2010/11 including details of its actual spending and the outcome of the annual audit report from the Audit Commission.

2. The Council Budget

The Council Budget is an estimate of the resources that the Council will require to fund all of the services that it provides, to achieve its strategic aims and objectives and address community and local taxpayer needs and priorities. The Council needs to set a Revenue Budget and a Capital Budget. The **Revenue Budget** funds the **day to day running costs** of the Council's services such as salaries, supplies and fuel and the net cost after deducting any income receivable to the service from fees and charges and grants is **met from** the Town Council proportion of the **Council Tax**. The **Capital Programme Budget** funds **major one off investment** in the Council's fixed assets such as its buildings, vehicles and play areas and is generally **funded from the Council's Balances and Reserves** and any external grants and contributions that may be available.

3. 2011/12 Revenue Budget

The development of the 2011/12 Revenue Budget needed to take into account a number of important issues, including:-

- the impact of the current economic climate and public sector spending cuts;
- providing for inflation and any other unavoidable increases in costs;
- accounting for falls in income from fees and charges;
- identifying efficiency savings and potential budget reductions;
- identifying opportunities for increased income or securing external funding;
- considering any required investment in priority services

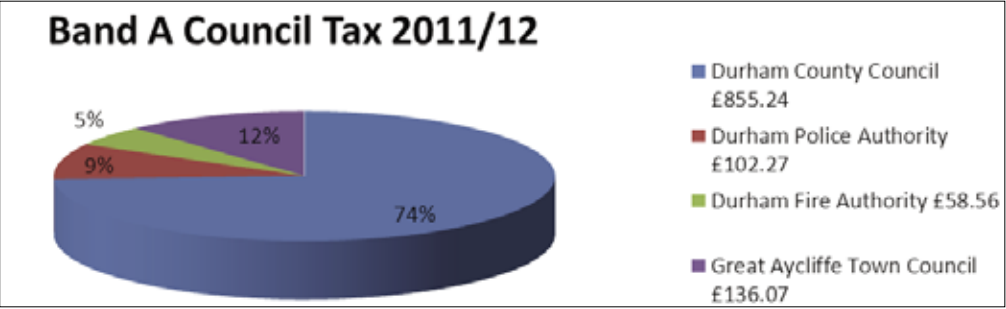
The Council's revenue spending plans for 2011/12 can be summarised as follows:-

Service Area	2011/12 Budget £
Members and Civic Expenses	72,600
Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	453,100
Capital Financing Charges	29,650
Pre Schools	249,500
Community Events	151,650
Sports Complex	671,300
Golf Course and Driving Range	240,350
Environment and Open Spaces	116,700
Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	249,050
Works Depot and Street Equipment	146,650
Cemeteries	72,700
Allotments	15,650
Contingency Sum	16,150
Total Cost of Running Town Council Services	2,485,050
Contribution to Capital Reserves	50,000
Total Planned Spending	2,535,050
Less Income	
County Council Funding for Pre-Schools	(165,000)
Double Taxation Grant (Cemeteries and Allotments)	(38,500)
Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(450,250)
Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(187,400)
Cemeteries and Allotments Fees and Charges	(29,550)
Other Income	(42,500)
Investment Income	(5,000)
Total Income	(918,200)
Net Budget Requirement / Council Precept	1,616,850

The Council is fortunate in that it does not rely on any grant funding from central government and does not face any direct cuts to its spending. The Council has also been carefully managing its finances for a number of years. **The Council is pleased to report that it achieved a small reduction in the level of its Precept for 2011/12, thereby allowing it to freeze the council tax. It is important to stress that this was achieved without the need to make cuts to front line services or staffing levels.** This was possible largely because there were a number of one off savings available to the Council's Revenue Budget this year, arising mainly from the officer pay freeze, the repayment of two of the Council's outstanding loans, the removal of a number of items of one off budget, efficiency savings and reductions in non-essential budgets.

4. 2011/12 Council Tax

As detailed above, the Council's 2011/12 Precept is £1,616,850 which equates to a Band D Council Tax of £204.10. However a significant proportion of properties in the Great Aycliffe area fall within **Council Tax Band A**, for which the Town Council element of the **Council Tax bill is £136.07 per year or £2.63 a week**. This represented a freeze in the level of Council Tax. The overall Council Tax figure for 2010/11 for Band A properties in the Great Aycliffe area is £1,152.14. The following illustration demonstrates that **only 12p in every £1 of council tax comes to Great Aycliffe Town Council:-**



5. Capital Investment Plans 2011/12

The Council also plans to make investment in community assets next year via its **2011/12 Capital Programme Budget** which has been set at **£351,300**. Capital projects planned for 2011/12 include:-

- Roofing works at the Sports Complex and Stephenson Way Cemetery;
- New Council website;
- Extension of St Oswald's Allotments;
- Refurbishment of Byerley Park play area;
- Installation of a new toddlers' play area at the Town Park;
- Creation of new woodland in Woodham Burn;
- Resurfacing of the Sports Complex and Golf Complex access road.

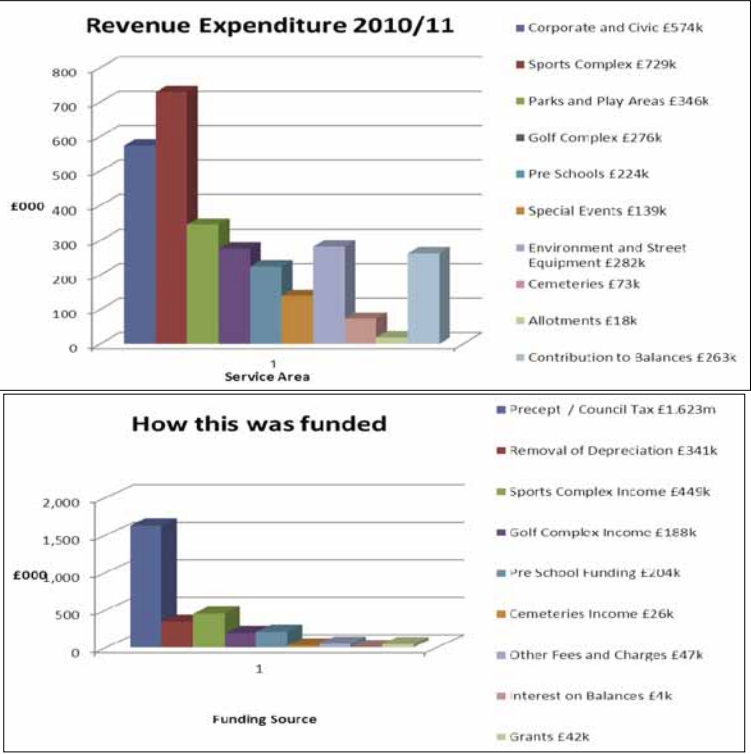
The Capital Programme Budget **will be funded in full from the Council's Reserves**, as it is not expected that any external funding will be available towards the Council's capital investment plans.

6. 2009/10 and 2010/11 Actual Spending

A summary of the Council's actual expenditure in 2009/10 and 2010/11 in running its various services, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2009/10 £	Service Area	2010/11 £
69,755	Members and Civic Expenses	68,188
448,459	Corporate Management, Finance and Administration	460,036
44,700	Capital Financing Charges	45,582
235,511	Pre Schools	224,118
136,899	Community Events	139,475
742,612	Sports Complex	728,526
273,990	Golf Course and Driving Range	276,237
340,368	Parks, Sports Pitches and Play Areas	346,092
278,154	Environment, Works and Street Equipment	281,448
70,431	Cemeteries	72,739
14,215	Allotments	18,327
10,000	Contingency Sum	-
2,665,094	Total Cost of Running Council Services	2,660,767
	Less Income	
(85,019)	Grants	(47,570)
(188,845)	Pre Schools Funding and Fees	(204,297)
(450,927)	Sports Complex Fees and Charges	(449,192)
(183,081)	Golf Course and Driving Range Fees and Charges	(188,030)
(25,953)	Cemeteries Fees	(25,923)
(41,968)	Other Fees and Charges	(41,529)
(2,921)	Investment Income	(3,561)
(978,714)	Total Income	(960,102)
(324,467)	Exclusion of Depreciation Charges	(340,702)
1,361,913	Actual Net Cost of Council Services	1,359,964
263,587	Contribution to Council Balances / Savings	263,036
1,625,500	Council Precept / Council Tax	1,623,000

A graphical summary of the Council's spending in 2010/11 and how it was funded is shown below:-



7. 2010/11 Capital Investment

A summary of the Council's capital investment in Council and community assets in 2009/10 and 2010/11, and how this expenditure was funded is detailed below:-

2009/10 £	Investment Area	2010/11 £
101,980	Council Buildings Works	123,410
76,126	Replacement Vehicles and Machinery	35,000
8,600	CCTV Cameras	-
81,846	Parks and Play Areas Investment	50,530
-	Great Aycliffe Way Improvements	22,745
-	Dance Mat System	15,000
23,077	Office and IT Equipment	23,820
9,578	Other Capital Investment	18,995
301,207	Total Capital Investment	289,500
	Funded by:-	
(44,418)	Capital Contributions	36,905
(256,789)	Use of Council Balances	252,595
(301,207)	Funding of Capital Investment	(289,500)

8. Annual Audit Report

The Council is subject to an annual external inspection by the Audit Commission and the overall opinion on the overall financial standing of the Council is set out in an Annual Audit Letter. **The Council is pleased to report that it has again received a clean bill of health on all aspects of the inspection.**

This means that the Audit Commission considers that:-

- the Council's Statement of Accounts presents fairly its financial position;
- it is well managed and governed with sound strategies, policies, procedures, systems and internal controls;
- its finances are in good order;
- it delivers economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money;
- it delivers value for money services to the local community.

All in all, this was a very positive Audit Report for the Council and the Audit Commission commended the Council for the progress it has made over the last few years. This is an excellent achievement and is testament to the hard work and commitment of all councilors, management and staff.

It was also recently agreed by the Council that it will continue to seek a greater level of external audit assurance in future years despite a recent change in legislation which would have allowed the Council to move to a 'limited assurance' audit regime.

As one of the largest Town Councils in the country and one which spends nearly £3 million of local tax payers' money each year, the Council felt it needed to continue to manage its finances to a higher standard and to seek a greater level of assurance from external auditors in order to demonstrate efficient use of public money. The 2010/11 Audit Letter is due to be received later this year, following the completion of the 2010/11 Audit.

Hitachi Rail Offer £Multi-million Business Opportunities

More than 1800 individuals representing over 1000 companies have attended the first Open Day event for Hitachi Rail Europe's Intercity Express Programme (IEP) in the north east. The Open Day featured representatives from Durham County Council, County Durham Development Company, Merchant Place Developments, Agility Trains and Hitachi Rail Europe, publically speaking about the IEP for the first time since the Government gave the £4.5bn project the go-ahead in March. As the majority partner in Agility Trains, Hitachi is to invest in a new manufacturing facility at

Amazon Park, Newton Aycliffe, creating hundreds of jobs and contributing millions of pounds to the local economy. Participants at the oversubscribed event were able to learn about the business opportunities available during the construction and fit out of the new factory, which will see a massive 460,000 sq ft train assembly facility built on a 31.5 acre site. They also learnt about the future opportunities to supply components and services for the manufacture of Hitachi Rail Europe's Super Express Train, which will replace the UK's ageing fleet of diesel Intercity 125s. Speakers from Hitachi

Rail Europe at the event included CEO of Agility Trains, Alistair Dormer, who outlined the scope and process of the Intercity Express Programme and Keith Jordan, Managing Director of Hitachi Rail Europe speaking about Hitachi's plans in the region. Geoff Hunton, Managing Director of Merchant Place Developments, Hitachi's development partner for the site, outlined his company's contractual procedure and procurement strategy for the new facility. Phil

Wilson, MP for Sedgefield and a strong advocate for the Newton Aycliffe site, gave a speech in which he welcomed Hitachi to the region. Alistair Dormer, CEO of Agility Trains, said: "It's great to see so many local firms interested in supplying to Hitachi Rail at this early stage in the project's development. The local community in the north east has been instrumental in making IEP a reality, and we intend to use suppliers from this region whenever possible."

"We are committed to the north east, the birth place of the steam train in the 19th century, and are proud to play a leading role in helping to re-establish its status as a centre of excellence for the railway industry in the UK in the 21st century." Durham County Council's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, Councillor Neil Foster said: "The event has been a fantastic success and the range of local companies represented is testament to the sound network of

supply we are able to offer Hitachi in County Durham and the wider area. I would like to thank Hitachi for choosing Newton Aycliffe and assure them we will continue to offer them our full support." Geoff Hunton, Technical Director of Merchant Place Developments, the organisation that will be responsible for the building of the factory, said: "Initial design work is now at an advanced stage. It is fitting now that we engage with suppliers today to form a database of interested parties for issue in the fullness of time to contractors. The range of services required covers several key areas – site preparation, rail connection, construction, fit-out, completion/hand over, management and so on." Development at Amazon Park will start next year and when complete the

facility will be the first new train manufacturing plant to be built in the UK for decades. Full scale production of the Super Express Train will begin at the Hitachi Rail facility in 2015, with the first trains delivered in 2016. The Hitachi Super Express trains will be used on the East Coast Main Line and the London – South Wales Great Western Main Lines. The bi-mode (diesel – electric) train offers increased capacity, improved reliability and a reduced environmental impact on every train journey. The Open Day was organised by County Durham Development Company on behalf of Hitachi Rail Europe, Durham County Council and Merchant Place Developments and took place near the future site of the new factory.

IDTA Junior Medallist of the Year Competition



Lisa Robinson



Millie Cartwright

On 15th May, 2011, the IDTA (North East) ran the Junior Medallist of the Year competition at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

In the 10-13 years Medallist of the year, Kalya Shaw was placed 2nd and Daniela Winwood 5th. The 3-5 years Rosette category saw Amber Fenwick placed 2nd whilst the 6-8 years Girls' Rosette category saw Millie Cartwright 1st and Summer Fenwick 2nd and, in the Boy's section, David Robinson was placed 2nd.

The 6-10 years Stardance was split into girls and boys. In the girls' section Abbie Kennedy managed 5th place and Beatrice Lineton 6th. Reece Atherton won his category of 6-10 years Stardance boys section and Harrison Evans came 3rd. The 10-13 years graded solo saw Lisa Robinson placed 1st and Hayley Archer 3rd.

Amber Fenwick came 2nd in the 3-5 years Rosette Rock & Roll syllabus and Amy Dolan managed 7th in her category of 6-8 years Rosette Rock & Roll syllabus. Beatrice Lineton was placed 3rd in the 6-10 years Stardance Rock & Roll syllabus category.

In Junior Freestyle Pairs Abbie Kennedy and Beatrice Lineton came 8th in Under 9 years and Libbie Anderson and Reece Atherton were placed 8th in the 10-13 years category.

The up to 9 years Junior Rock & Roll category saw Abbie Kennedy and Beatrice Lineton come 4th and Harrison Evans and Rachel Bennett 7th. Reece Atherton and Libbie Anderson managed 5th place in the 10-13 years Rock and Roll section.



Reece Atherton

The up to 9 years Junior team "Spirit" came 2nd.

The team is made up of 12 dancers, namely: Amy Dolan, Kira Watson, Beatrice Lineton, Summer Fenwick, Abbie Kennedy, Millie Cartwright, Charlotte Rowley, Rachel Bennett, Romie Cowens, Harrison Evans, Erin O'Brien and Holly Stanway.

Anyone who has an interest in joining Lee Green Dance Centre can contact Tel No. 01325 318239.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Dates and Times of Statutory Meetings of the Town Council and its Committees

Wednesday 8th June 2011

Council Meeting - 7.15pm

QUESTION TIME

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

With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings: members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting.

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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Tennis Club Rise To Latest Challenge

After playing for a couple of seasons in the Darlington and District League, a decision was made to accept a greater challenge and enter the more competitive Cleveland League. The Greenfield TC Men's Team have been accepted in Group 6. The Club has a strong squad of players including experienced players and juniors.

Head Coach Ian Wilkinson says, "It is fantastic to see commitment from a squad of players, many who have played in successful school teams and are now able to compete a higher level."

The Club have got off to an incredible start and have won their first 3 matches.

Team Captain John Snowball is delighted with results so far and the attitude of his players. John says, "the challenge of playing matches each week has not only improved the standard of Team Tennis but Club Nights also. The aim is to be promoted each year into a higher level of play and so far the plan is working."

Results: Hutton Rudby: Won 9-0, Tennis World: Won 5.5-3.5 and Yarm: Won 6-3

Anyone wanting to play tennis is welcome to attend Club Nights on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6.30.

Full details on www.rootennis.com or by contacting rootennis@hotmail.co.uk

AYCLIFFE FIGHTERS IN BANGKOK



Two fighters from Aycliffe Muay Thai Club flew out to Bangkok Thailand to participate

in the 7th Amateur and 1st Pro-Am World Championships. Stuart Taylor and Peter Steed were honoured and privileged to be selected to represent not only their country but also their Camp and Newton Aycliffe.

Stuart and Peter worked hard to raise funds to get them there as this was not a Professional Competition and was not funded. Both fighters thank everyone who contributed to raising over £2500 including Berco UK, Permoids, Scouts Association Committee, Aycliffe Town Council, Lee Smith Memorial Fund, local businessmen Steve, Steve and Ronnie; patrons of the Scouts Centre and Cricket Club who frequent the bar! Also a big thank you to all close friends, family and members of the Camp for your selfless support. They could never have achieved this without your support and charitable donations.

"The experience was amazing, and we gained a wealth of knowledge to bring back and share with members of the Camp."

Stuart was unfortunate in picking up a foot injury while competing in the Amateur competition and was unable to move onto the Pro-Am contest, but gave a good account of himself having the crowd on their feet cheering with excitement. He lost on a very close points decision.

Peter also sustained a cut under his chin from the headguard cutting through from a strong righthand punch which stopped the fight, but the medical team were able to dress the wound in time for Peter to compete in the Pro-Am competition a week later.

Peter fought a taller opponent from Italy but was able to beat him for a place in the semi final against the silver medallist from Ukraine. Peter fought 3 good rounds, coming very strong in the 3rd, but the judges gave the points decision to the Ukrainian. This shocked both fighters, and was echoed by the predominantly Thai crowd who showed their dissatisfaction. Peter and Stuart fully enjoyed the experience and knowledge gained participating in the Championships.

Stuart and Peter would like to give a special thank you to Kru Sean Dooney, as without Sean's commitment and support none of this would have been possible.

If you would like to see what Muay Thai is about and learn about the culture as well as the sport then come along to one of Aycliffe Muay Thai's classes. Contact Sean 0754 7699973.

SUPPORTERS' CHANCE TO GET TROPHY PICTURES

Darlington fans will be given a chance to have their pictures taken with the FA Trophy.

Supporters who sign up to a season ticket for the 2011-12 campaign will be able to attend free photo shoots at the Northern Echo Arena later in the year.

Darlington are hoping some of the 9,000-plus fans who attended the victorious day at Wembley will get behind the club.

Managing Director Graham Fordy said: "Wembley was a special day for the club and we'd like to think at least 10 per cent of them, on top of our hardcore fans, will come back to the club."

"We understand why a lot of fans have stayed away, but we hope this historic cup win will heal a lot of old wounds with supporters."

"The chairman is keen to reward all fans who sign up for a season ticket, and I'm sure the majority of those who were there at Wembley would like to have their photographs taken with the FA Trophy."

"We'd probably look to hold a couple of sessions later in the year, which would be free and exclusive to season ticket holders, and they could come and take as many pictures as they like."

Fans are reminded that the club's early bird season ticket is available until June 1.

The adult season ticket for 2011-12 is £275, which works out at less than £12 a

game and represents a total saving of £139 on matchday prices.

Concessions are priced £170 (£7 a game, saving £106), and Under-16s are priced £60 (£2.60 a game, saving £55).

Ron Greener Suite season tickets are £325 adults (saving £158), £220 concessions (saving £125) and £80 Under-16s (saving £104).

Season Ticket application forms are available from the club, and online at www.darlington-fc.net

TIME TO GET FIT

It's that time of the year again holidays are looming and you need to get in shape. Why not come to the Oak Leaf Sports Complex and try one of our exercise classes?

Tuesdays we have a Tai Chi class which start at 7.00pm, Wednesdays there's a Pilates and Zumba class starting at 7.00pm, Thursdays our Yoga class starts at 5.30pm, and on Sundays we have Pilates and Zumba again, starting at 6.00pm.

Under 14 Water Polo

Sedgefield Water Polo Club played an invitation under 14 tournament at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre against North West Giants City of Manchester, who have lots of smaller teams in the City feeding into their squad, Carlisle and Scottish Champions Dunfermline.

Sedgefield who included three 10 year olds in the first seven fielded a very young team. In their first game they were outclassed 7-1 by Dunfermline and it looked like a bad day for Sedgefield. However they showed a lot of grit and determination to defeat Manchester 4-1 in the next game and then defeat Carlisle 2-1.

This meant that they were up against Dunfermline in the final. Sedgefield were a changed team this time out against the Scottish Champions

and had changed their game plan which nullified the Dunfermline attack and with a minute to go the game was locked at 1-1. Then Sedgefield missed 2 great chances to win it and Dunfermline scrambled a very late winner to win the final 2-1. Kris Egginton 10, Connor Keeble 10, and Michael Cousins 10 deserve special mention for tremendous performances in the competition against much older players. Jack Warren 13 made a very promising debut in goal.

Sedgefield's 2 Female players Terri Millington and Emily Pilkington both 11 played with great tenacity. The other members of the Sedgefield team were Ben Turnbull, Jake Plant and John Pratt all 12, Luke Curley 10, Cathal Macinnes 11, Haydn Craggs 8 and Kyle Jones 12.

Great Aycliffe



Town Council

BYERLEY PARK PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS SURVEY

The Town Council have secured £40,000 funding to improve the play area and we are interested in your views. Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire below and return it to the Town Council by Friday 17th June 2011.

£40,000 will provide either:

- A Single Multi Use Piece of Equipment for Older Children
- or
- A New Separate Toddler Play Area and Additional Pieces of Play Equipment for Older Children

1. Do you or your family presently use the play area?

YES ☐

NO ☐

2. Do you agree with the following statements? Please circle your answer:

The play area needs updating YES NO

The play area is fine and does not need updating YES NO

A separate toddler play area is needed YES NO

More equipment is needed for older children YES NO

A toddler area and more equipment is needed YES NO

3. If you would like to see the play area improved, what age group should be targeted?

Toddler 18 months - 3 years ☐

Infant Ages 3 to 5 years ☐

Junior Ages 5 to 14 years ☐

Combined 18 months to 14 years ☐

4. It is intended that the play area will remain within the present designated area. With that in mind what type of equipment would you like to see being installed?

Please forward your reply to Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL3 0QF.

The form can also be downloaded from www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk - if you are able you can always return the form electronically to info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk and place Byerley Park in the subject line.

If you would like to speak to someone about this please telephone 01325 300700

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NEWTONIAN SCORES AT CHELSEA FOR CF TRUST

23 year old Chris Kerr from Newton Aycliffe had his dreams come true on 17th May when he got to play, and scored, at Chelsea FC as part of a charity football match.

Chris, who has the life-threatening condition Cystic Fibrosis, was chosen by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust to take part in their annual Nicky's Whisper Challenge Trophy Football Match at Stamford Bridge which saw a celebrity team take on a team of MP's. Chris played for the celebrity Cystic Fibrosis Trust XI alongside Angus Deayton, Omid Djalili, Kyran Bracken, Dalton Grant, Darren Campbell, Muse bassist Chris Wolstenholme, Dan Walker from Football Focus and footballing hero Gus Poyet.

CF Trust supporters also played on the team and MP's including Russell Brown, Steve Hepburn, Jim Murphy, John Leech and Rob Wilson turned out for the parliamentary side. The final score was 6-4 to the Cystic Fibrosis Trust team and goal scorers included Chris Wolstenholme and Dalton Grant for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Justin Tomlinson MP and Steve Hepburn MP for the UK Parliamentary FC. Ex-professional referee and Sky Sports pundit Dermot Gallagher officiated the match.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is one of the UK's most common life-threatening inherited



diseases. Cystic Fibrosis is caused by a single defective gene. As a result, the internal organs, especially the lungs and digestive system, become clogged with thick sticky mucus resulting in chronic infections and inflammation in the lungs and difficulty digesting food.

Skiing instructor Chris, who recently ran the London Marathon for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust said: "I had an absolutely amazing day and was over the moon to score a goal and to meet so many famous faces. I loved it and so did my family and friends who came along to watch. It was also great to be able to educate people there about Cystic Fibrosis and what it means to live with the condition, some days I am really well and able to take part in things like this, and other days I am really breathless and unable to do

much at all."

Chris has to undergo a tough daily treatment regime including taking around 70 tablets a day. He takes inhaled and intravenous drugs along with physiotherapy to clear mucus. His condition also requires occasional hospital stays and courses of intravenous antibiotics. There is no cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

Chris is an Arsenal fan and played regularly for the York St John university team, as well as various Saturday and Sunday 11 a side and 5 a side teams. He will begin training to be a primary teacher in September.

The Nicky's Whisper Challenge Trophy Football Match is sponsored by National Grid. This year's match raised £30,000.

Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Tel: 020 8290 7912

LOCAL SPORT

WOODHAM AT NORTH EAST LEGACY GAMES



On Wednesday, 18th May, 3 students from Woodham Community Technology College qualified to represent Sedgefield schools area in the North East of England Legacy Games. The boys competed against teams from schools across County Durham, Northumberland, Tyneside and Wearside. The boys gave 110% all in the events and were a credit to themselves, the school and the county. Hopefully they will have done enough to qualify for the National Championships to be held in Preston, so fingers crossed! In addition to their sporting success a special mention must go to the way in

which the boys conducted themselves and the show of support and sportsmanship to other competitors during the day. Well done boys!

Team: Adam Rakos, Christopher Dawes, Thomas Melderis

DARLO PLAY 'TOON' IN PRE-SEASON FRIENDLY

Darlington fans can watch the big pre-season friendlies in style at the Northern Echo Arena. Quakers welcome their Premier League neighbours Newcastle United for a friendly on Friday 15th July (7.45pm kick-off).

They also take on Tony Mowbray's Middlesbrough at the Arena on Saturday 23rd July (3pm kick-off).

And corporate hospitality at the Arena is available from just £39.95 for both games.

The Ron Greener Suite (based on a minimum of two guests per table) includes matchday seating, a one-course meal, complimentary matchday programmes and official team sheets, and is available for £39.95 per person plus VAT. The Premium Hospitality package, also in the Ron

Greener Suite, includes executive matchday seating, one executive parking pass, a glass of sparkling wine on arrival, a superb two-course meal, half a bottle of wine per person, complimentary matchday programmes and official team sheets, and costs just £49.95 per person plus VAT.

Meanwhile, corporate boxes for the games are available from £450 plus VAT (based on 10 guests). The box package includes two executive parking passes, a one-course meal, half-time tea/coffee, minibar facilities, complimentary matchday programmes and official team sheets. To book any of these packages for Darlington's pre-season friendlies, or for the 2011-12 season, call the sales team on 01325 387000, or email k.sadler@darlington-fc.net

TROPHY WINNERS COME TO AYCLIFFE!

PRE-SEASON SCHEDULE TO DATE

Saturday 9th July: Easington Colliery (H), 3pm

Saturday 16th July: Esh Winning (A), 3pm

Tuesday 2nd August: Darlington (H), 7pm

Saturday 6th August: Darlington RA (H), 3pm

www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe will welcome FA Trophy winners Darlington to the town for a high-profile pre-season friendly this summer.

Mark Cooper's side will take on Allan Oliver's Northern League second division champions at Moore Lane Park on Tuesday 2nd August (7pm kick-off).

It'll be the second successive year the Newtonians will entertain their nearest professional club after Quakers came to Aycliffe last summer, when a staggering 1,300 people turned out for a first-ever meeting between the two sides.

Darlington took 9,000 fans to Wembley earlier this month, winning the FA Trophy after a dramatic extra-time win over Mansfield.

Aycliffe, meanwhile, completed a memorable Division Two title campaign in just their second Northern League season, winning promotion to the top flight for the first time in their history.

Gary Farley, Aycliffe

Chairman, said: "We're delighted to confirm this high-profile friendly and look forward to welcoming Darlington to Moore Lane Park again after the huge success of last summer's fixture.

"Mark Cooper has promised to bring a strong side to Aycliffe, so we'll hopefully see some of the lads who lifted the FA Trophy at Wembley! We're sure it will prove to be a hugely-popular fixture again this year and we look forward to seeing what will hopefully be another record crowd."

Aycliffe have also confirmed other pre-season friendlies. They'll welcome Northern League new boys Easington Colliery to Moore Lane on Saturday 9th July and go to Esh Winning, relegated to the second division last season, on Saturday 16th July.

Aycliffe will also welcome Darlington RA to MLP on Saturday 6th August, in a re-run of the game which drew 567 for the league encounter back in March.



The 2011-12 Season Ticket

From £275 adults (less than £12 a game),
£170 concessions, £60 Under-16s

Application forms available from the club,
tel 01325 387000
or at www.darlington-fc.net

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Summer Fair at Heighington

Heighington C.E. Primary School will be holding their annual
Friends of the School fundraising fair on Saturday 11th June
from 2pm to 4.00pm. Adults 50p and accompanied children
enter for free.

A wide variety of stalls including homemade cakes, toys,
books and handicraft will be on sale. Loads of activities for the
children including a bouncy castle, face painting and a number
of other attractions for all to enjoy including the Fire Brigade
and engine.

Our Grand Summer Draw will also take place; 1st prize £150
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Shafto House Update

Newton News has received an update on the sale of Shafto House and its future use. A County Council officer told us the marketing process has been completed and the Council have accepted an offer from Gleeson Developments of Sunderland a builder of residential houses. The land at Shafto House after demolition of the former Care Home will be used for low cost family housing and the two local Ward Councillors Sarah Iveson and John Moran are said to be happy with

the proposal. The company will now submit a planning application which will be determined in the usual way with local consultation taken into consideration.

Get Involved With AAP

Residents in Great Aycliffe and Middridge can find out how local issues are being tackled when the local Area Action Partnership meets next week. The Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) will be holding its AGM and board meeting on Tuesday May 24 between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, at Woodham Community Centre and local people are invited to observe proceedings. Residents can also raise any local issues that they would like the board to address. A County Council planning officer will be in attendance to give a presentation regarding the County Durham Plan consultation. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting to observe must register attendance in advance by ringing the GAMP Team. Tel: 01325 327441 or Email: gampaap@durham.gov.uk

Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce DONATIONS needed of Bric-a-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John on 316 630
RSPCA Durham and District cats and kittens for adoption, fee applies to cover 1st and 2nd vaccination, also neutering and id chip. Please Tel 311 215

SLIMMING WORLD
Every Thursday at St Clare's Church (Back Hall)
1pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
All groups with Debbie
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Young Flicks Member Reviews Film

Lauren Linsley Age: 9 a pupil at Stephenson Way, Community School has reviewed the latest release at St. Clare's Film Club 'Animals United'.
"The film was about the animals in the desert, which had no water, because the humans had all kept it too themselves and didn't share. It followed their quest across the desert, to find water for themselves and their families. There were lots of different animals in the film, and some great music too. 'I liked the part where the dam wall broke and there was plenty of water for everyone. All of the animals enjoyed being swept along the water and the meercats were really funny. Everyone laughed when they did the hokey cokey. I didn't like it when a hunter, shot a lion with a dart to make him go to sleep, so he could steal him.'"
Lauren recommended this film and gave it 5 out of 5 stars, and she said it is suitable for age range 5-12 years.
A big thankyou to Lauren for this review, she recieves

KATIE PLAYS THE CHOCOLATE MAN

Young 13 year old Katie Baldwin is about to take to the stage as the chocolate eccentric "Willy Wonka" in The Tearaways Youth Theatres production of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" early next month.
Along with Katie will be Jade Townsley as the elderly, Grandma Josephine, Caitlin Small is the chewing gum champ's Mum Mrs. Beauregarde. Charlotte McAdam stars as the TV loving Mike Teevee, and Sarah Evans as his adoring Mum Mrs. Teevee.
Augustus Gloop is kept in check by his Mum, played by Louise Smails. Amongst the dance troupes are our very own Hannah Day, Paige Legg and Sophie Peat.
Andrew Timmiss will be keeping an eye on things ensuring that during the 4 performances, Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th June at the Civic Hall, Shildon, the free chocolate and sweets are handed out to the audience properly. Get your little Ooompa Loompa to prebook tickets, priced £4 Adults £2-50 Children / Concessions, by ringing 01325 313363 or 01388 774838. For more information -- www.tearaways-shildon.co.uk



a free ice-cream at the next club!
A reminder Kidz Flicks is next on, Saturday 4th June, 2pm, where the film is a popular Walt Disney tale about a trio of talking pets. Doors open 1.30pm and all are very welcome. Any Queries, contact Helen, 319002.

NEVILLE ZUMBA

Due to Monday 30th being a bank holiday, ZUMBA at the Neville Community Centre will be cancelled. However the session will take place on Friday the 3rd June and will continue to run every Monday only, starting from 6th June.
Everyone is welcome!

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BLUE bed settee (metal action), only been used twice, as new, £100. Tel 01325 311953
EARLY Learning sizzling kitchen with accessories, excellent condition, £35. Tel 310593 or 07790 299806
DISNEY Princess pink throne and wand, £15. Tel 310593 or 07790 299806
SILVER high-sleeper bed, space underneath, height 139cm x width 100cm x length 199cm, £40. Tel 01325 311935
BLAYDON Preformed garden pond, black, 6ft x 3½ft x 18" deep. Good condition, £40. Tel 301692
NEED An old domestic appliance removing? Can't wait for the Council? Tel. 321 678

SAD LOSS OF A LOCAL LANDMARK

On Wednesday 18th May vandals damaged a local landmark in Woodham Burn which has had to be removed to make the structure safe. One of the flowers on the Sunflower sculpture towards the bottom of the burn near Woodham Technical College was snapped from its base damaging the large flower and makes the remaining two flowers stalks unstable.
The sculpture which was loved by many local residents was installed during the original construction of the first Great Aycliffe Way route in 1998. Great Aycliffe Town Council are in the process of seeking professional advice to decide if the sculpture is still viable and can somehow be repaired or adapted so it can be reinstalled in the future.
If anyone knows who is responsible for this vandalism Great Aycliffe Town Council are encouraging local people to inform the police on 0345 6060 365.

Thank You

THE LATE Henry Oakleys family would like to thank Dr Heathe, Dr Baines, The District Nurses, Union Carers, Marie Carie Nurses, The Vicar and Meynells Funeral Service as well as family and friends for all the support through this sad time. Many thanks to Mally and Louise for all your hard work. Love, Jean and Family
LOUISE MARIE KELLY (Loopy Lou) Thank you to our wonderful Daughter, we are so proud of you for your help and support and looking after your Grandma. It was much appreciated by Mam, Dad and the rest of the family xx
FRANCIS Tommy and Claire would like to thank everyone who came to our Wedding and for all the gifts and money we received. Special thanks to Carol who made our cake. It was a day to remember and thank you for helping us celebrate the best day of our lives.

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1 BEDROOM sheltered accommodation flat, recently refurbished in Woodham Village. Please contact 01325 320837 or 07747 004991 for details
WOODHAM VILLAGE 2/3 bed house, unfurnished with garden, driveway, central heating for £470 p/m 07723 379 932

Congratulations

Esme Molyneux

27th May
Days will come and days will go, you are loved, we all know. Words are few, but may we say "have an extra special day". To the best Mam and Nana anyone could wish for. All our love. Lynda, Ron, Danielle and Rachel

Emily Louise Cunliffe

Happy 18th Birthday
Hope you enjoy your birthday and have a fantastic weekend with family and friends. Love from Mam and Dad xxx
Have a lovely day Emily on your 18th birthday. Love and best wishes Gran xxx

Katherine Hayhoe

Teenager Now!
Happy thirteenth birthday. Lots of love always. From Mam, Dad, Nana, Uncle Ian and Bramble

Karen & Derek Wood

Congratulations
on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. Special wishes to a great couple with love from all your friends

Vicky Riley

Happy 50th Birthday
29th May
To a wonderful Daughter, Mum and Sister. Have a lovely fun day. Lots of love from Mum, Dad and all the family xxxx

Diane Collier (Mercer)

Happy 50th Birthday
28th May
Have a fab day! Lots of love, Glyn, Sarah and Emma xxxx

Francesca Louise Weston

Happy 16th Birthday
31st May 2011
To our darling Daughter, 16 at last. Happy birthday Sweetheart, all our love, hugs and kisses, Mum and Dad xxx
Happy birthday big Sissy. Love you lots and lots. Your little Sissy, Evie xxx
To a precious Granddaughter, happy 16th birthday. You've grown into a beautiful young lady. Lots of love, Nana and Granda xxx
To our wonderful Niece, happy 16th birthday. All our love, Uncle Chris and Auntie Carol xxxx

John Williamson

Ruby Wedding Anniversary
31st May 2011
To my evercaring and loving Husband. Thank you for being there and supporting me for 40 years. Now the bad news, you only have to do it for another 40 years! I'll always love you, though I might not tell you! Love from Yvonne xxxxxxxxxxxx

Good Luck

SEAN DENHAM To Daddy, good luck in bringing the belt back to Aycliffe. Love from your Princess Emily

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Childminder

OFSTED Registered Childminder in Newton Aycliffe has vacancies for children 0-11yrs Tel 07729 775 802

Sports Club Celebrate Double Win!



Newton Aycliffe Sports Club are celebrating a double success this summer. The town's rugby club won a cup earlier this month, just weeks after the football club clinched a league title. The rugby players won their first-ever Durham County Challenge Plate against South Tyneside College, after the football team's historic Northern League second division title. Rugby team captain Warren Parsonage is pictured with his team's respective trophy, and the football team's skipper Sean Tarling, with

his – both are Aycliffe lads born and bred. "It's a great achievement by both teams," said Warren. "Both clubs have worked hard this season and deserve their success. It's been a great overall year for the club and its sections, and long may that continue." Sean added: "It was a great honour to lift the trophy along with Dan Mellanby and it's always an honour to represent your town. We're delighted for the rugby team as well - it's a fantastic double win for the Club."

NEWTONIAN TAKES NORTH EAST CHAMPIONSHIP

Gateshead International Stadium was flooded with the region's best athletes over the weekend of 14th and 15th May. Henry Johnson who runs first claim for Chester le Street AC formed part of a well gathered team who competed in a full range of athletic events. Local lad Henry Johnson ran his way to victory and claimed the NE under 15 boys 800m gold medal. It was the surprise of the weekend as Chester le Street had no less than 4 athletes in the heats. They all ran well with Joe Armstrong running in his heat to a new pb of 2.20.56, but missing out on qualifying for the final. Henry Johnson won his heat with a new pb of 2.13.45 and faced tough competition in the final. However, the surprise winner



turned out to be young Johnson who won gold with 2.15.49 with silver medallist Winkler (Morpeth) in

2.16.06. Johnson was amazed as it was the very first time he had raced in an under 15 800m, and had not expected to become the North East Champion! Johnson having just turned 13yrs old in April faced some much older athletes and held his silverware high when he won. Johnson thought that his new 400m pb of 58.7 ran at Clairville Stadium Middlesbrough on 26th April, probably gave him the strength of mind and body to perform so well in the championship race. Johnson has continued to run for his second claim team (Aycliffe RC) in the North Yorkshire South Durham League to a new pb of 4.37 in the 1500m at Eastbourne Track on 17th May. Although only a few days after his stellar performance in Gateshead, his legs were strong enough to bring him home in second place.

LOCAL
SPORT

More Local Sport on Page 14 & 15

Cricket Scoreboard

Newton Aycliffe 1st team finally got their season rolling with an excellent 21 run victory away at Burnhope in the top division of the North East Durham League. Batting first Aycliffe's innings got off to a dreadful start when batsman Adam Gittins sustained a nasty head injury when he was hit by a beamer and was badly concussed and had to be rushed to hospital for treatment. The Aycliffe players were understandably affected by this incident, but continued playing and were eventually bowled out for 94 after 24.3 overs. Credit must go to youngsters Michael Howe, who batted superbly for his 25 and an equally good effort by Sam Telford, who remained unbeaten with 15. In reply Aycliffe seam bowlers Sean Morgan (6 for 20) and Dave Atkinson (4 for 41) were in devastating form and bowled out the home side for just 73 after 21.4 overs to help take Aycliffe to their first win of the season. The second team made the long trip to Tantobie and were well beaten by 73 runs in their third division match. Chasing 169 for victory, Aycliffe were bowled out for 95 after 32.5 overs, despite an excellent career best innings of 38 by Nathan Blackburn. The under 18's team's dismal start to the season continued with a heavy 68 run defeat away at Crook, with only Craig Robertson (3 wickets for 28 runs) and Adam Hickey (34 not out) emerging with any credit for Aycliffe. Aycliffe's under 15's had their first win of the season away at previously unbeaten Ushaw Moor by 3 wickets. Chasing 85 for victory opener Matty French got Aycliffe off to a solid start scoring 13 runs, but it was Ben Nicholson who gave the innings some genuine momentum when he smashed two big sixes in his career best score of 36. A middle order collapse threatened to take the game away from Aycliffe, but Captain Thomas Gledhill with 12 not out and Patrick Howe with 5 not out, held their nerve superbly to take Aycliffe to a thrilling victory with only 2 balls remaining. The under 13's team played very well and were unlucky not to win away at Sedgefield. Chasing 115 for victory, Aycliffe fell just 12 runs short with good contributions coming from Patrick Howe (22 runs), Sam Dobinson (20 runs), Sam Morgan (17 not out) and Joshua Pearson (10 runs). The under 11's continued their unbeaten start to the

season with their third straight win away at Sedgefield in a thrilling game by just 2 runs. Adam Hickey top scored with 14 and there were also good innings from both Tom Roberts with 9 runs and Sam Dawson who scored 8 runs.

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