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# NEWTON NEWS

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## Local Lad 3rd in Junior Great North Run

Last weekend saw an amazing end to the summer for local lad Henry Johnson, with a 3rd place position at the Junior Great North Run. He stormed around the 4k course in 13.41. The route was tackled by runners from across the country, but the young athlete was happy to come in 3rd for the 13-14 yrs boys. The winner of the category was Josh Schofield from York who was this year's London mini marathon winner. "I was only 13 sec behind Josh,



so I am really pleased with my performance today," said Henry. His overall position of 8th place meant he had run faster than many of those competing in the 15-16 yr category. Johnson puts his recent success down to a few well placed events in his running diary. The Tartan Games at Gateshead at the end of August, gave him chance to race in Under 15 boys 1500m. A few days before he was struggling with asthma and considered pulling out. He did race and a photo finish saw him take 3rd place by only 400th of a second. Early September saw Johnson run at the Tees Pride 3k fun run. Coming back to defend his 2010 title, he glided to 1st place well ahead of the pack, in 10.33. Final preparations were put together on September 10th, when Johnson took part in his first ever park run at Durham. He was 4th over the line, behind the adults and first junior back with 17.41 a new personal best at the distance.

## PROMISE OF NEW LIBRARY FOR AYCLIFFE IN COUNCIL'S EASY ACCESS PLANS

Durham County Council's Cabinet is being asked to approve plans for new customer access points in the heart of four major communities.

A report to members next week outlines how, by choosing busy town centre locations, the council can save money in the long term but improve its offer to customers at the same time. Last year the Cabinet agreed a budget of £8m to invest in new Customer Access Points (CAPs) which offer information and support on a range of council and partner agency services in easy to reach locations. At the same time a review of the authority's office accommodation was carried out to ensure all buildings were fit for modern purposes. Those which are not will be sold off for redevelopment raising income for the council in the longer term and replenishing the £8m investment made. Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, Cllr Neil Foster, said: "The report offers Cabinet an important update, including the fact that the programme of new CAPs remains within budget. "But it also asks members

to approve the locations of four new facilities which I feel confident will be a major improvement for our customers in Crook, Durham City, Barnard Castle and Newton Aycliffe." "The idea is that by choosing locations we already know are both popular and easily accessible and co-locating a range of services on one site, we improve what we offer residents and in the longer term, save money. "I am particularly delighted that the report outlines a CAP for Newton Aycliffe, which I am sure will be most welcome for local people, who have not had anything similar in the past." The report proposes a new CAP within the Leisure Centre itself and a refurbishment programme of a number of local retail premises to provide a new

library. The proposals were considered by the Council Cabinet on Thursday September 22nd.

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# St. Mary's Lunch Club Welcomes New Members



Photo: Adam White (Community Development Project Officer, Great Aycliffe & Middridge Partnership), Councillor John Moran, Councillor Sarah Iveson, Kathleen Urwin (St Cuthberts Care), Maureen Osborn (St Mary's) and Fr Michael Campion

The successful Lunch Club recently launched at St Mary's on Burn Lane is welcoming new members. The club, for elderly people in Newton Aycliffe, was set up as a partnership between the Parish of St Mary and St Joseph and North East charity, St Cuthberts Care. With 27 volunteers the Lunch Club, held every Thursday at St Mary's, is flourishing and ready to help more people from the local community.

By providing them with a place to enjoy a nutritious lunch, companionship and a range of fun and entertaining activities, the Club aims to lessen the impact of isolation and loneliness and to help people enjoy the company and friendship of the group. Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) has funded essential improvements to make access and toilet facilities more wheelchair friendly for the

Club users. Funding was also provided to upgrade kitchen facilities including the heating and lighting systems.

Among those who are already benefiting from the lunch club is a carer who has been isolated by the responsibilities she has for her elderly husband, and an elderly married couple who have experienced little interaction with their community for several years.

Father Michael Campion, Parish Priest for St Mary's said, "Our lunch club has proved to be invaluable to many people in Newton Aycliffe and we want to make sure that every available place is used to benefit those who need our support. I am grateful to St Cuthberts Care for the expertise they have shared with us and to our team of dedicated volunteers who generously give their time to benefit others."

Kathleen Urwin, Community Services Manager with St Cuthberts Care added, "Working together with Father Campion and local volunteers, we have created a safe place where people can be assured of a warm welcome, a hot meal and companionship. St Mary's Lunch Club undoubtedly provides a weekly highlight for those who were previously unable to maintain links with their own community."

St Mary's Lunch Club costs £3 and takes place every Thursday in St Mary's on Burn Lane /Central Avenue between 11am and 2pm. Booking is essential. Further details are available from St Mary's Lunch Club on 01325 313 611.

# WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING AT PCP

The Macmillan world's biggest coffee morning is now an annual event and the Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) will be celebrating 100 years of Macmillan, having

fun, meeting friends old and new, to join in this national event to raise money to support people living with cancer.

The Coffee Morning is taking place on Friday 30 September at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe between 10.00am - 12.00pm. This will include tea and coffee, tombola and displays. There will also be an opportunity to see what the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service can offer to the people in the Sedgfield area.

Jane Hartley PCP Chief Executive said: "The event aims to raise the profile of the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Services based here in the Pioneering Care Centre whilst also raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

We are so pleased to have the Macmillan information and support centre as tenants of the Pioneering Care Centre as it offers a wide range of information on all aspects of cancer from prevention to care and is available for anyone who has been affected by cancer, patients, relatives and friends. Every penny raised at

the coffee mornings will help fund more services for people affected by cancer."

There will also be an opportunity for people to find out how they can become a volunteer in the Macmillan Cancer Information and

Support Service and make a real difference to those affected by the disease.

For further details contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carer's Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4SF, tel: 329933. www.pcp.uk.net.

## RESIDENTS CONDEMN LABOUR'S DECISION

Dear Sir, Can Labour Councillors on the Town Council consider the ratepayers requests and stop discriminating against those who want to give a picnic bench for the use of disabled people?

They might inform the ratepayers also how much it cost to put up a youth shelter for a Labour Councillor and then had to remove it due to anti-social behaviour.

Residents were not asked if they had any objection to the siting of this shelter so come on Labour stop trying to score points and do what you are elected to do - serve the people. Labour has lost my vote!

G. Sowerby, Silkin Way.

Dear Sir, Great Aycliffe Town Council should accept that Independent Councillors are there to serve the people and I think it is disgusting and childish that the Leader and the rest of the group of Labour Councillors have refused the gift of a picnic bench for disabled people requested by an Independent Councillor.

They should be grateful for the offer and remember the householders nearby had no objection.

It is also very churlish of Cllr. John Clare to call the matter "a bit of excitement"

H Watson Silkin Way

Dear Sir, Why do the Town Council have so much trouble accepting the gift of a picnic bench? They made very hard work of an easy situation and it appears the Labour group is hell bent on doing what they want and not what is requested.

It seems they have no consideration for others and it was just an opportunity to discriminate against another Councillor who supported the request of his wife.

It was noticeable that the Independents on the Council supported the proposal - why not Labour? Guess who I will vote for, next election?

G Clark Silkin Way.

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**Saturday 22nd October "Andy Curtis"**  
**Saturday 29th October "Uncle Gilbert"**  
**Saturday 12th November "Arrival"**

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**Saturday 24th September - "CAPTAIN ROCK"**

Decided to take it easy and drive to the Turbinia in Newton Aycliffe last night to watch Steve, Lewthy, Al and Marky aka Captain Rock. Anyway, I missed most of the first half...what I did see I'll come back to 'cos it's the best bit. The second half was a typical CR performance. Steve's a good sound engineer and he had the mix pretty much spot on with it not being too loud and everything cutting through well. The pub was pretty full and the crowd up for some Christmas shenanigans...shenanigans are a Captain Rock thing as well. Lots of wandering into the crowd, guest appearances galore, standing on chairs, playing the other guitarists guitar with your own baldy head (Steve looked like Kojak with string marks on his dome at half time. They even did a couple of Christmas songs at the end getting the crowd to participate. It was proper daft stuff but...and this is where we get back to the first set. Despite all the carry on and showmanship that gets the crowd going, Captain Rock are four very good musicians, playing some very good music. Al and Mikey are solid as a rock at the back, Steve's got a great voice and Lewthy's playing is getting better all the time. To prove the point, I'd have to describe 'astronomy' by Blue Oyster Cult which is always the last song of the first set. It has everything in it. It's a long song but it keeps your interest from start to finish with it's highs and lows. Brilliantly executed by the band and undoubtedly the best song of the night.

ONE OF THE TUBS FAVOURITE BANDS, DON'T MISS THIS GIG

**Saturday 1st October - "MUGSHOT"**

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

**Saturday 8th October - "WITCHKRAFT"**

"The first set was a good mix of well known songs from Mottrose, Jethro Till, Golden Earring, Free and AC/DC. Second set was Deep Purple as this is their trade mark. Cliff on drums (ex White Noise) and Gaz on bass have created a really tight and punchy rhythm section. Mr. Big was excellent, really showing off Gaz's skills. John on vocals, was suffering with a chest infection but it didn't stop him delivering, with a good, high and gritty rock vocal. Mal... is Mal. Looks and plays like Blackmore, has all the moves and the sound of Mr. B, but can also show he's really good at the other stuff as well. All in all it was a good show, good crowd, nice choice of rock classics mixed with the best of Purple." - Jarekmaco Review

For more information on bands go to  
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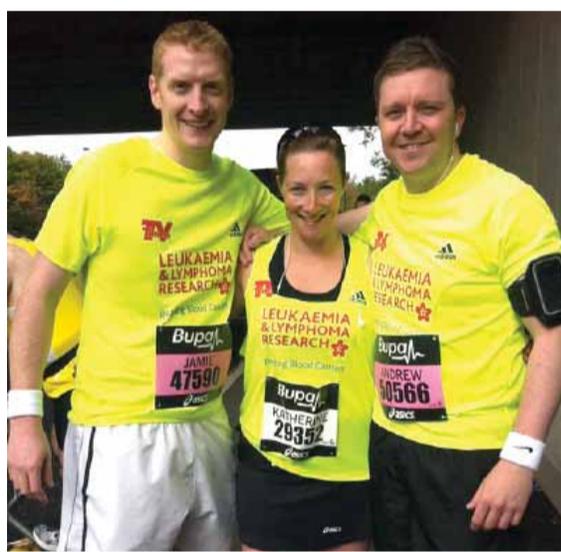
# A DIFFERENT HARVEST

This year Neville Parade Methodist Church will hold a Harvest Festival with a difference. It will be a time of thanksgiving for industry and there will be a display of products of local firms in the Church Hall. A number of firms including Merchant Place Developments (the firm which is building the new Hitachi train factory) have agreed to participate and we are hoping for an exhibition of interest and variety. On Friday 30th September there will be a formal opening at 7pm. Phil Wilson our M.P. and the Rev Ruth Gee our Chair of District and Interim Chair of Tees Valley Mission and a number of representatives from local firms will give short presentations. The Church will be open on Saturday 1st October for viewing from 10am - 4pm and also on Sunday afternoon from 2pm - 4pm. Refreshments will be available. At the services on Sunday 2nd October the preacher will be Rev Rosa Leto an industrial chaplain working in the District. We look forward to meeting you over the weekend.

# BARMY BUNCH ON THE RUN



A whole bunch of runners from Newton Aycliffe's "Banana Army" pounded the pavements of the north-east last weekend to raise vital funds for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Sporting their trademark yellow shirts, the families ran first on Saturday 17th September. Grace Everson, Maisie & James Henry, Isaac, Jacob and Dominic Hume were all cheered over the start line by Minnie & Mickey Mouse. They ran their little socks off around the one mile course to receive their well-deserved medals at the end. Ellie Drake, 13, joined the 4km junior race and came in 6th, with an impressive time of 16 minutes, knocking 3 minutes off her pb.



On Sunday the adults, Andrew Armitage, Jamie Everson, Jaime Hume and Paul O'Connor took to the streets. Starting in Newcastle they were spurred on by the support and cheers of amazing crowds along the route. The group of friends who have chosen this cause as it's close to all of their hearts, have now raised a staggering £6,568 through all of their fundraising. The forget me not ball being held at Hardwick Hall on Friday 30th September will be the penultimate event in their calendar for this year. The group are still looking for raffle and auction prizes to further boost their efforts. If you are able to help, please contact them through their website at www.bananarmy2011.co.uk

## New Social Club in Church Hall

A new Social Club has opened every Tuesday at St. Clares Church Hall from 1pm - 3pm. Enjoy crafting, play Dominoes, Chess, Whist, Draughts. You name it... or just sit and natter! Music will be provided for those who wish to dance. Tea & Coffee & Biscuits provided. Give it a GO come along and say HELLO. Further details or suggestions ring Ric Hargreaves on 316755.

# NANNY MARY POPS-IN

Everyone's favourite Nanny takes the stage next month when the C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre Group present their version of the musical "Mary Poppins". Amongst the 47 strong cast aged 8 to 11 years are 13 young people from the Newton Aycliffe and School Aycliffe areas. A spokesperson said "The C.A.T.S. production of Mary Poppins, is a combination of the 1964 film, and PL Travers book, all the characters, such as Mary Poppins, Bert, Jane and Michael are in their production along with all the well known songs". The four performances are at the Civic Hall, Shildon, Thursday 13th, Friday 14th October, at 7.30pm, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October at 2pm. So after your "jolly holiday" and before "flying your kite" you can purchase tickets, priced £4.00 Adults, £2.50 Children (over 5) and Concessions by ringing 01325 313363.

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Tuesday, 27th September	8.30am to 12 noon 1.00pm to 4.30pm
Wednesday, 28th September	9.00am to 12 noon 1.30pm to 4.30pm
Thursday, 29th September	8.30am to 11.00am
Friday, 30th September	8.30am to 12 noon 1.30pm to 4.30pm

## The George

### Forthcoming Events

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Saturday 17th December, £59.95 per person  
Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd December, £39.95 per person  
Thursday 29th December, Alexander's Palace - Monsters of Rock, £50.00 per person
- SANTA SUNDAY**  
Enjoy a 3 course carvery lunch and let the kids be entertained.  
Sunday 18th December, £18.95 per adult, £8.95 child under 12
- CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**  
£49.00 per adult, £20.00 per child (first child FREE)
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Carvery, £16.95 per adult, £8.50 per child
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Sunday 2nd January 2012, 11.00am until 3.00pm
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Thursday 9th February 2012, 6.00pm until 8.00pm
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Saturday 21st February 2012, £125.00 per couple
- SPRING WEDDING FAIR**  
Sunday 11th March 2012, 11.00am until 3.00pm
- MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH**  
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# WIND FARMS: A REALITY CHECK

## CO2 EMISSIONS

Electricity generated from wind turbines is unpredictable. Conventional power stations, running inefficiently and producing CO2, are needed as backup. CO2 is produced in the manufacture of thousands of cubic feet of concrete for the base of each turbine. Lorries constructing the bases and road infrastructure emit CO2. RESULT – a negligible reduction in CO2 emissions over the lifetime of a wind farm

## SUBSIDIES

Wind farms are only viable because of Renewable Obligation Certificates (ROCs). The consumer pays a higher price for electricity – the main beneficiaries are the shareholders of cement, wind and electricity companies and the landowners. Environmental economists estimate the environmental impact cost to every household in Scotland is £288 per on-shore wind farm.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

“Wind farms” should be called “Wind power stations” – they are industrializations of the natural landscape Scotland’s natural beauty – its attraction to tourists – is under threat with proposals for 250 wind farms. Auchencorth Moss is close to the Pentland Hills – a Regional Park. A wind power station will destroy the view of the hills from the major tourist routes and will destroy views from the Pentlands Auchencorth Moss is a raised peat bog, a site of special scientific interest and a breeding ground for birds.

# Young People Graduate from Baltic Training Apprenticeship

A group of young people have been given an insight into the world of work with an advanced IT apprenticeship run by Newton Aycliffe firm Baltic Training Services.

As part of Baltic’s 22-week programme, in partnership with the Student Loans Company in Darlington, the teenagers have successfully graduated from the apprenticeship which has helped them gain qualifications and vital work experience.

As well as gaining level two key skills in Application of Number, Communication and ICT, and a nationally recognised Apprenticeship qualification, the young people have also had hands-on business experience, making them well equipped for successful employment in a range of office-based and call-centre environments.

The learners spent half their time with Baltic’s training staff during the apprenticeship, and the other half with the Student Loans Company gaining office-based experience.

It is hoped that the training programme will provide a stepping stone for the apprentices to gain IT or administration roles in business.

The current group, who left school in 2010, is the first to undertake the Advanced IT Application Specialist Apprenticeship with Baltic Training Services and the Student Loans Company, and with the success of the pilot programme, Baltic Training are already recruiting the next generation of apprentices. Ian Manthorp, assistant manager at the Student Loans Company, said: “The first group have been a pleasure to work with and it is safe to say the apprenticeship programme has been a big success.

“It’s a learning curve for us as well, so hopefully we’ll learn more as we go on, and those who come to us in the future will only benefit from that.”

Bob McLeish, Baltic Training Services’ training manager for IT and Telesales, said: “It is our job to provide these young people with not only a firm grounding for the world of work but a full skills set to use as they take their next steps into their chosen career.

The Student Loans Company is delighted with the scheme, and most importantly the apprentices have thoroughly enjoyed the course and have found it very worthwhile.

“Hopefully our apprenticeship programme is just the beginning of a promising career for them all.”

The group included Ryan Chapman, Danielle Wilson, Luke Gilbert, Kelly-Anne



Quinn, Luke Swannell, Jane Wilson, Jack Blewitt, Lauren Moss and Danny Blakeburn (pictured); and Alex Fraser and Natasha McGuinness.

# Bring The Show to the Town Centre

Dear Sir,  
I wonder if it is time to have a major rethink in respect of the Great Aycliffe Show, given that we are all being asked to cut our coats according to our cloth? The prohibitive cost of this event can be found on the Town Council website in the Auditor’s Report. I feel sure the hardworking Show Committee would agree that having the Show in the Town Centre Park might be worth considering. The showground was in such an awful state that parents with pushchairs and people in wheelchairs just gave up. Past experience has taught those with cars that parking on the field sometimes means getting stuck. Relying on the barely existent bus services, especially on a Sunday, is a joke when you have children with you. The Chilton Show utilises

the Primary School rooms for the exhibitions and handicrafts and uses the school playing field for the outdoor events.

Perhaps the Town Council could use the excellent Youth Centre facilities and the Town Park. It is apparent that the younger people who go to the show for the fair, rarely visit the other stalls and attractions so perhaps if the fair was held separately or maybe just leave it for the Bonfire spectacular in November.

Making the Show more central and accessible means the town centre could be utilised for the stalls (like on Market day) and the Fire Station could hold their competitions in their yard and have their own ‘Open Day’, thereby involving all the town.

Sue Woodham

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**YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING**  
for September 2012 entry

VISIT US: [www.woodham.org.uk](http://www.woodham.org.uk)

All prospective students and their parents are warmly invited to attend

**THURSDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2011**  
**6:30PM - 8:30PM**

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL  
**WOODHAM**  
COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Alternatively Year 6 Coffee Afternoon  
Friday 30th September 2011. 2:30pm – 4:00pm

## Specialist Pain Relief

Greg Henderson a Chartered Physiotherapist operating from the Pioneering Care Centre at Cobblers Hall has a fine reputation for his range of treatments.

His clinic times have just changed to Monday 5-9pm, Friday 1.30-6pm and Saturday 8.30am-2.00pm. Full details on his website: [www.greghenderson.co.uk](http://www.greghenderson.co.uk) or ring 327444.

Greg specialises in back pain but also treats sports injuries, arthritis, shoulders, knees, repetitive strain etc and acupuncture for pain relief.

He works with all the recognised health providers and his prices range from £25 with the usual concessions.

**greghenderson**  
chartered physiotherapist

**GREG HENDERSON**  
BSc - MCSP - SRP

The Pioneering Care Centre, Burn Lane  
Newton Aycliffe DL5 4SF  
Telephone: 01325 327444  
Email: [physio@greghenderson.co.uk](mailto:physio@greghenderson.co.uk)  
Website: [www.greghenderson.co.uk](http://www.greghenderson.co.uk)

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Friday 1.30pm-6.00pm & Saturday 8.30am-2.00pm

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Hydrotherapy Exercises



## AYCLIFFE PRIEST IN WINNING GOLF TEAM

The inaugural Flexipol Charity Golf Day in aid of the City of the Angels was held at Richmond Golf Club on 21 August. It raised over £1,100 for the refuge, founded by Fr Pat Clarke, for street children in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The City of the Angels is the overseas aid project this year for the Catholic parish of St Mary and St Joseph in Aycliffe.

The team event was won by four diocesan clergy who regularly play golf together. The attached photograph shows Patrick Connolly (on right) presenting the team trophy to Fr Michael Campion on behalf of the team.

The event was sponsored by Patrick Connelly and his company, Flexipol Packaging Ltd. Patrick, a member of the parish of St Mary and St Joseph told Newton News: "When I heard Fr Pat speaking in the parish this year I just knew I had to do something and I am delighted that Flexipol could help such a sincere man and such a worthwhile



project in this way."

Fr Michael Campion, parish priest, said: "I am most grateful to Patrick and his company - Flexipol Packaging Ltd - for so generously sponsoring this event and providing wonderful hospitality as well. My thanks also go to the members of Richmond Golf Club for their enthusiastic and generous support."

The rolling Richmond

parkland course has glorious views but notoriously tricky undulating greens. The clergy team overcame some tenacious opponents to lift the team trophy. When the result was declared, there were lots of quips about the priests being 'aided by divine inspiration'. However, Fr Campion assured them that good golf, as with most achievements, owes more to perspiration than inspiration.

## GOOD EXPLANATION NEEDED FOR OUSTING BOXERS

Dear Sir,  
My Son and I are members of the Newton Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club, a local and incredibly popular club.

This club has been run in Newton Aycliffe by Les Gibson for over 24 years, a local man who is passionate about boxing and equally passionate about getting the best from anyone who wishes to cross the threshold of his gym and learn how to become a boxer.

Boxing is a fantastic sport, it promotes health, wellbeing and fitness, not to mention self discipline and confidence.

It held training sessions every Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm till 730pm at the Youth Centre, opposite Tesco until now!

My son and I turned up for our usual training session last week only to find the club had been unceremoniously ousted

from the Youth Centre. It would appear that the time slot has been allocated to a dance class.

I understand that there are other clubs in the area that require training venues, but for Les to be treated this way and lose both the Tuesday and Thursday slots I feel is totally wrong.

Les and his boxers are without a venue in which to train and now face an uncertain future at what should be the start of the Boxing season.

I would like to invite anyone involved in the decision making process to come forward and supply an explanation as to how they can justify, what I believe to be a dreadful decision.

Stuart LePoidevin  
**Editor: Newton News made contact with the Management Committee Chairman Counc Vince Crosby, but to date have received no explanation.**

**St John's**

Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre

'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values.'

# Open Evening

28 September, 2011 6.00 - 8.00pm



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"Students receive exceptional preparation for the next stage in their lives because of the qualifications they get, their excellent basic skills and their impressive personal qualities."  
Ofsted 2010



# £700 RAISED ON GREAT NORTH RUN



Gary Gibson aged 33 from Newton Aycliffe ran the Great North Run on the 18th September 2011 for the Huntingtons Disease Association. He ran the race in 2 hours 4 mins and came 15249 out of 54000 people. He has raised approx £700 for Huntingtons Disease and he would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has sponsored him, and a special thank you to the "Jolly Boys"

of Newton Aycliffe for their large donation. Gary said that it was a great day all round it was sunny and dry for most of the day but even when it rained the crowds were that good they kept him going. It was one of the best experiences he has ever had and pushed him to his limit. But that isn't the end he is now looking for his next challenge and jokes the olympics are next year!

# REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

The Policy and Resources Committee was a very amicable meeting, when Councillors of all political persuasions unanimously agreed on almost every issue. They agreed to give a small grant to a local group which was holding a charity night. The meeting also agreed spending decisions of £17,315 on new IT equipment (as recommended by the Council's IT Support company), and £1,586 for cavity wall insulation of the St Oswald's Learning Centre (as recommended by the Council's Asset Management Group). It also instructed officers to prepare a full report on the possibility (and viability) of installing photovoltaic cells on the Council offices roof. Members agreed the 2012-13 Budget timetable, approved an updated policy on Lone-Working by Council employees and accepted the Council's revised Business Risk Review. The Committee also recommitted itself to requiring full Audits. A change in government policy allows the Council to conduct only a 'light touch' audit, at a saving of £8,000 a year, and officers reported that we are the only town council in the country which still requires the full

'larger body' audit. Members remain convinced, however, that they want the more thorough audit, because they want townspeople to be able to continue to be reassured that the Council is achieving the highest standards of financial competence. That peace of mind – for Councillors and electors – is worth the extra cost. As if to demonstrate their financial acumen, Councillors raised a number of queries relating to the accounts control sheet, which the officers explained. A final point concerned the West Park boathouse. In August, the Council's Asset Management Working Group had considered the boathouse (which has not been used since 2007, needs refurbishment and a new roof, and has no electricity, water or toilet). The Working Group had recommended that investigations should be made as to other possible uses, but that – if there was no interest in the building in the next 3 months – the Council should consider demolishing it. Cllr George Gray said that he was disappointed that the Working Group had not made a site visit to the building, and that it had not carried out a

community consultation on every maintenance decision on every building it owns; Councillors were elected to make such decisions, and it was right that they do so. However, he moved that Cllr Gray's comments be noted. This – along with the recommendation of the Working Group – was accepted by the Committee.

## Join the Acorn Players and Perform "Peter Pan"

We will be staging our annual pantomime "Peter Pan" in November and are looking to recruit people of all ages to come along and join us. If you can sing, dance or act or just want to come along and have a go we meet every Monday and Wednesday at 7.00pm at Woodham School. If you are interested please contact Helen on 01325 314718 or 07817 938989 or join our FACEBOOK page

# LOCO APPEALS FOR STORIES FROM FORMER WAGON WORKS EMPLOYEES

The National Railway Museum at Shildon is appealing to former employees of Shildon Wagon Works to come forward with their stories and memories of working on Merry-Go-Round (MGR) wagons. In May the museum saw the arrival of the last MGR wagon to be built at Shildon Wagon Works. It was built in 1982, and was the last new MGR wagon to be completed before Shildon Wagon Works closed in 1984. The movement of coal by rail in Britain was revolutionised in the 1960s through the introduction of new coal hoppers, called 'Merry-Go-Round' wagons. A train of 'Merry-Go-Round' wagons is able to load and unload its cargo while still moving – so maximising efficiency of the wagon fleet. The prototype was a 32-ton unit, built at Darlington and tested in 1964 – and recently cosmetically restored at the NRM Conservation Workshop at Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon. After the closure of Darlington Works in 1966, MGR wagon production continued at Shildon – and, with the exception of 160 wagons built at Ashford – all 10,702 HAA wagons and 460 HDA wagons were built in the town.

Tony Attle, Education Officer at Locomotion said: "Coal wagons have a long history of being made in Shildon, with over 150 years of coal transportation out of the town. Merry-Go-Round wagons are an important example of this, and they are still many in use today. The display of this wagon at Locomotion is an important addition to the collections here. It represents the achievements made at Shildon Wagon Works and the important role that Shildon played as a railway town. But we need more information from people who worked in the industry to interpret this object. We hope that people will help us achieve this by coming forward with their stories and memories". The project to interpret the MGR wagon has been funded through Local Elected Member, Councillor Brian Stephens' Neighbourhood Budget. MGR wagon, HAD 368459 was bought by the North East Branch of the 'Friends of the National Railway Museum' for display at Locomotion. To contact Locomotion about the project please contact Tony Attle, Education Officer on 01388 771444 or email [Anthony.attle@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Anthony.attle@durham.gov.uk)



## GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A Specialist Arts & Science School

# OPEN DAY

### THURSDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 2011

### 1.30 pm to 2.45 pm and 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm

*"Raising Aspirations and Transforming Lives in a Successful Learning Community"*

Prospective students and their families are warmly invited to our Open Day/Evening. We look forward to meeting you and your children as you make important choices for your child's future. Experience the school in action, talk to pupils and teachers, join a guided tour or wander at your leisure as we help you make an important decision for the next stage of your child's life. We strive to provide a caring and supportive learning environment for all students, whilst working in partnership with families and other agencies to help your child achieve their full potential. Greenfield values all students and provides a wide curriculum equipped to meet the needs of all children. Opportunities are vast; pupils gain confidence and skills from the experiences we offer outside of the classroom including the newly launched Martin Gray Football Academy. Martin will be available on the evening to answer any questions you may have. The school makes effective use of its specialist status to spread good practice and learning is enriched through the many opportunities and experiences it has introduced.

OFSTED July 2011 said: "Learning is increasingly good and sometimes outstanding. Teachers use a variety of interesting activities which capture students' imagination". They also said "Students continue to have good relationships with their teachers and this contributes to students' good behaviour and attitudes to learning".

Headteacher: Mr David Priestley  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Christine Stonehouse

If you would like further information please contact:  
Melanie Stubbs, Assistant Headteacher Care Support & Guidance

### Greenfield Community College

Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 7LF  
Telephone: 01325 300378  
Email: [melanie.stubbs@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:melanie.stubbs@greenfieldschool.net)



Photographs by Gavin Lowe



# AYCLIFFE FACES OPPORTUNITY & DANGER SAYS COUNCILLOR

Dear Sir,  
May I share with Newton News readers what I regard as the main issues currently facing Aycliffe:

1. If you receive Durham County Council's Economic Update, you will be very worried about the rising unemployment rate in County Durham. I am campaigning for a regular meeting with the DCC 'RED' (Regeneration and Economic Development) team so that the Town Council can at least be kept informed about what is happening on the Aycliffe Industrial Estate. The Town Council does not have the financial means to influence the economy, but it must do what it can to encourage development.

2. The government's Localism Bill will give the Town Council the right to make a 'local plan' (within the County Plan we were all campaigning about earlier this year). At the same time, the government is seeking to 'free up' planning, and I am worried that this will make our precious places vulnerable to inappropriate development. So the town faces opportunity, and danger, both at the same time. The Town Council has set up a Planning Subcommittee to monitor planning applications, and I

am advocating that - when the opportunity arises - we will write our own 'local plan'.

3. The government has published a review of constituency boundaries which will cut the number of MPs and reduce County Durham's representation at Westminster. Meantime, Aycliffe is to be taken out of its current constituency, and moved in with a Yarm/Eaglescliffe constituency. If you have read my blog, you will know that I regard this, not only as a disruption, but as an attack on our civil rights.

4. Finally, I am trying to stop the proposed Eon wind farm. I reckon that this, if it goes ahead, will be a long-term disaster for Aycliffe and its people.

There is currently an active debate in Newton News about wind farms, but we could really do with a discussion of all these issues. This government is racing pell-mell down a route which will change our whole society.

I don't know how you feel about it, but by the time you have included changes to the NHS, new housing proposals, benefit cuts, student fees, Academies, pensions and everything else the government is rushing

into law, it seems to me to add up to a regressive remodelling of society which more-or-less hands us over to big business.

And I think the speed of change is part of the process - to get our heads spinning so fast that we can't weigh up what we think about one change, before we're having to consider the next.

I will try to keep people informed about what I see going on. As well as my letters in the Newton News, you can follow me on Twitter @johndclare.

## Heighington Craft Market

The annual Craft Market is to be held in Heighington Village Hall on Saturday 1st October from 10am till 3pm. Admission is free.

Over 20 stalls will display their wares with something for everyone.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day including bacon butties, hot soup and cakes as well as teas and coffee.

Why not come along to buy those early Christmas presents?

Everyone welcome!

## GOSPEL SINGER AT BURNHILL

We would like to invite everyone to a Harvest Quiz and Supper on Monday 26th September, at 7pm in the Church Hall. This costs £3 per person. As well as this we are holding an evening of Entertainment with Paul Wheeler, a Gospel Singer, on Thursday 29th September at 7pm.

This costs £5, including refreshments. We would love to see everyone there to enjoy what is bound to be a memorable evening. Also, our baby and toddler group now runs 2 sessions a week. Wednesday morning's we have a 'Messy Play' session, from 10.30-11.45 which is free and includes a snack and drink.

This session can get very messy so we would recommend old clothes! And Friday afternoon from 1-2.30 we have a general play session, with activities varying from week to week, including story time, music and singing, cooking, messy time and imagination play.

This session costs £1 a family, and again includes a snack and drink. We have plenty of space, so would love to invite all young people to bring an adult with them and just turn up at any session!

Susan Mills

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## PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

ADDED PER WEEK SALE

**SKIPLAW ROAD, NEWTON AYCLIFFE - £76,999**  
Vendor Offers Incentives, Subject to Offer  
Two bed mid linked house, ideal for FTB or investor, lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, DG, GCH, Garden front and rear. Viewing highly recommended

**GRASSHOLME PLACE**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£79,999  
Three bed semi detached, ideal for the growing family or FTB. Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, uPVC DG. Fence enclosed garden with patio area. Viewing recommended

**ST GODRIC'S ROAD**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£99,999  
Three bedroom mid terrace. Ideal family home. Lounge, kitchen/dining room, DG and GCH. Gardens. Viewing highly recommended

**BOWES ROAD**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£114,999  
Three bedroom semi detached house, ideal family home. Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, double glazing, Gas Central Heating, Gardens, Drive and Garage. Viewing highly recommended

**SPRINGFIELDS**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£219,999  
Immaculate three bed detached bungalow with lounge & fitted kitchen/dining room, double glazing & gas central heating. Garden plus superb private gardens. Viewing highly recommended

**NEWBURN COURT**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£179,999  
Four Bedroom Detached House, ideal Family Home, GCH & UPVC DG, Lounge & Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Garden & Garage & Drive. Viewing Highly Recommended

**DEFOE CRESCENT**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£119,999  
A well presented three bedroom mid link house. Fitted kitchen, utility room, lounge, sitting room (original garage), DG and GCH., sun room, drive and gardens. Viewing highly recommended

**THE MEET, NEWTON AYCLIFFE - £199,999**  
Four bed detached house, ideal for the growing family. Lounge/dining room, DG, GCH, Fitted kitchen/breakfast room, gardens front and rear, driveway and garage. Viewing highly recommended

**MERLIN COURT**  
Newton Aycliffe - £179,999  
Vendor to pay Stamp Duty subject to offer  
Well presented three bedroom detached house, ideal family home. Lounge and excellent fitted kitchen, En-suite. Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Conservatory, Gardens, Garage and Drive. Viewing recommended.

**WASHINGTON CRESCENT**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£21,999  
Well presented two bedroom mid terrace house, ideal for FTB. Lounge, Dining Room and fitted kitchen. Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating. Gardens front and rear. Viewing recommended

**LANCELOT CLOSE**  
Newton Aycliffe  
Offers Over £192,999  
Well presented three bed detached house, ideal Family Home. Lounge/dining room & fitted kitchen, double glazing & gas central heating. Gardens front & rear, garage & drive providing off street parking, viewing highly recommended

**GAMUL CLOSE**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£194,999  
Three bedroom detached house, ideal for the growing family. kitchen, lounge/dining room, DG, GCH, gardens, garage, double drive, not overlooked to the rear. Viewing highly recommended

**RUFUS GREEN NORTH**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£99,999  
Four bed mid terrace house, ideal family home, kitchen, dining room and lounge, D/ Glazing, G.C.H., gardens, close to school and bus route. Viewing recommended

**HIND COURT**  
Newton Aycliffe  
£122,999  
Well presented three bed semi det house, ideal family home. Lounge & dining room, double glazing & gas central heating, excellent fitted kitchen. Gardens, driveway & detached garage. Viewing highly recommended

**CHILTON CLOSE WOODHAM - £179,999**  
Four bed detached, ideal for the FTB or growing family. Lounge, dining room fitted kitchen, wood DG, GCH, master bed with ensuite, drive, garage, garden, patio - viewing highly recommended

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# 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](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) • Website: [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)



## FURTHER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

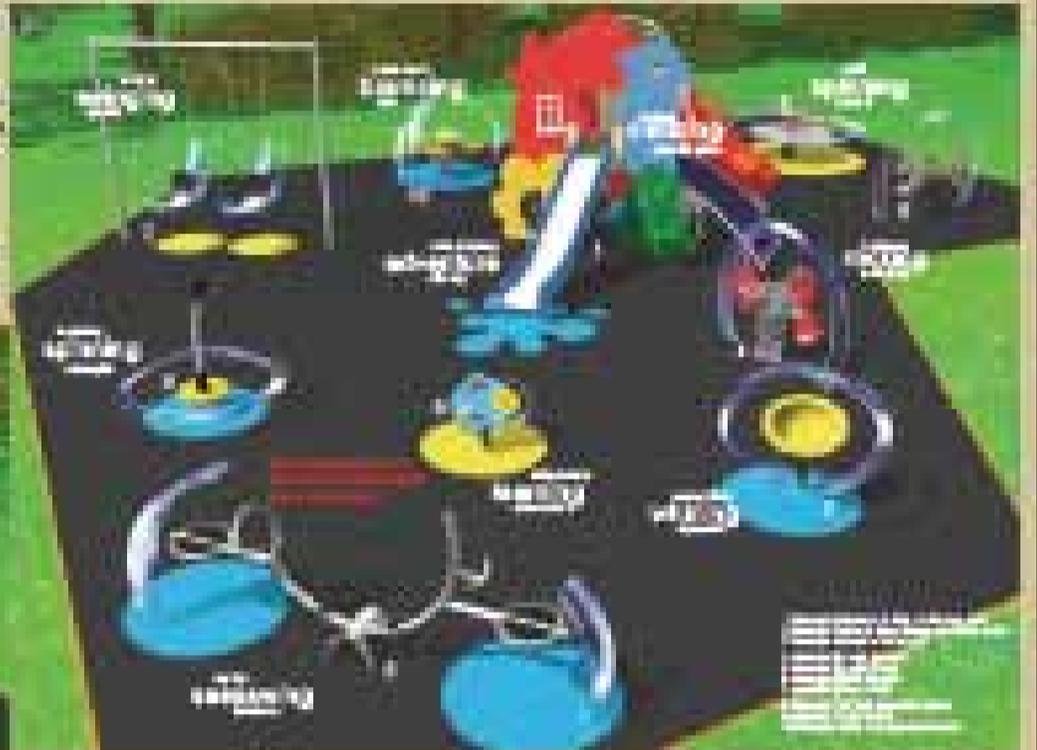
### BYERLEY PARK PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT

The Council recently considered proposals from play equipment providers to refurbish the play area at Byerley Park.

Residents were consulted by way of a postal survey in the Byerley Park and The Chase areas and a questionnaire in the Newton News on what type of play equipment they would like to see installed.

A total of 201 replies were received.

Following the consultation exercises the play equipment providers were asked to design a scheme that would best meet the residents' expectations



within the agreed budget for the refurbishment.

The scheme chosen (pictured) incorporates a variety of equipment and offers play value for all age groups.

The new equipment will be integrated between some of the existing play equipment at the site and will include both junior and infant swings, roundabout, multi-unit with slide, springers, sploos, a rocket and wacky spinner.

## New Play Area for Toddlers in Town Park

A new play area, specially designed for toddlers, has been opened in the Town Park.

The play area is equipped with a cradle swing, roundabout, play house, slide and springy and also incorporates a sand play area – currently the only sand play area in a park in Great Aycliffe. Sandpits are fantastic for younger children, a blank canvas in 3D for children to build, dig and discover. The Council realises that sandpits take a fair bit of maintenance to keep them clean and hygienic but feels that this is manageable in the Town Park, which is staffed.

The Toddlers' Play Area will complement the existing play facilities in the Town Park, which cater for all ages and abilities and include a junior play area, in addition to a skateboard park, games area and teen shelter. The Park is an attractive venue for the whole family, with seating and picnic tables, football pitches, toilets and formal gardens.



Two-year-old Faith Grant checks out the sand play area

Chairman of the Council's Amenity Committee, Councillor Brian Bell, near the new play equipment

## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

Mr & Mrs J. Holliday from 4 Steadhigh Court, have won the Best Overall Front-Garden Display for 2011. The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Debon, presented Mr & Mrs. Holliday with the 'Lady Berwick Rose Bowl', and a bouquet of flowers as the winner in the Council's Annual Community Enhancement Award. Nominations were received from the general public, which were then validated by council staff. Nominees have been issued with a Community Enhancement Certificate in recognition of the contribution that their garden or display has made to the environmental appearance of Great Aycliffe.

Attached photograph shows Mr & Mrs Holliday with the Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Debon.





# GREAT AYCLIFFE SHOW

Despite the wet ground conditions on Saturday the Show went on as normal. Thousands of spectators flocked to the Show this year and were not disappointed with the many forms of entertainment.



The Handcraft and Horticultural Competition had an excellent display of over 1000 entries. The sponsors of the Handcraft Trophies were Dice Trophies and Engravers and the Horticultural Trophies and Best Look prize of a Colour TV was supplied by Gregg Little Testing Centre. Lee Douthett and his Daughter Emma from Gregg Little Testing Centre presented Best Winner prize to Gary Parsons (pictured top left).



This year saw a new Sports Show being added to the event which attracted 114 entries.



Entertainment in the arena was from the Ings Motorcycle Display Team, Elaine Hill's Sheepdog Display and Dawn of Chivalry - medieval re-enactment society (pictured to the left).



The Playhouse marquee hosted local dance troupes and the amazing Professor Maccompoys was on hand between his magician performances with balloon modelling. The main act in the Playhouse on Saturday was "Glee" who invited members of the audience to dance with them on stage. Sunday took us back to the 70's with Abba Fever, a professional band who have performed all over the country.



Other marquees demonstrated craft items, environment information, and a trade tent where you could buy everything from a holiday to scrapbooks. The Women's Institute marquee, as usual, provided a large array of snacks and was well received.



The Council recognises that the Show could not be a success without the continued support of our Sponsors and Supporters and we would like to give special recognition to the following:



Gregg Little Testing Centre (Horticultural Show)  
Dice Trophies and Engravers (Handcraft Show)  
Ings Travel (Golf Competition)  
Co-operative Foodstore (Junior Football Tournament)



Mr B. Bonberry (Junior Football)  
Heron Press (Printing of Booklets)  
Aycliffe Crown Park  
Oakleaf Golf Club  
Darham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Brigade  
St. John Ambulance  
Women's Institute  
Armed Forces Recruitment

## Great Aycliffe Town Council & Durham County Council BMX PROPOSAL, WOODHAM PARK - CONSULTATION

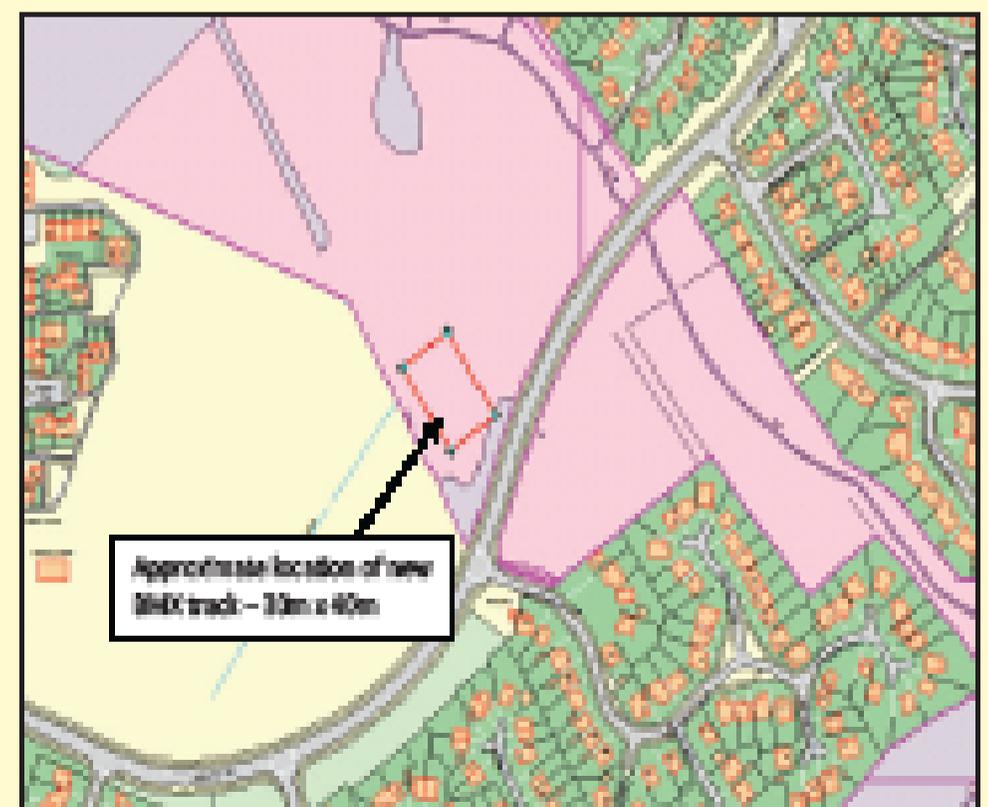
An initiative has been put forward to provide a purpose built BMX track to replace the present track in Woodham Park. This will be a joint venture between Durham County Councillors Mrs Joan Gray and Paul Gillies and the Town Council. Although there is currently a small clay based BMX track within the park due to the construction it is degrading and local users have requested that it be improved. The new BMX track will only be available during daylight hours and will not be artificially lit.

We are interested in your views, to help us improve the BMX area and suggest the most appropriate location.

1. Would you like to see the BMX area improved?  
Yes  No
2. Do you think the BMX track should continue to be provided at Woodham Park?  
Yes  No
3. Do you have an alternative site within Woodham Park that you think may be more appropriate? Please mark the location on the plan.
4. Do you have any other comments about the BMX area that have not been covered here? Please provide details. (Or e-mail: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk))

Please forward your reply to Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Office, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6QJ by Tuesday 11th October 2011. This form can also be downloaded from [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk). If you are able you can always return the form electronically to [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) and place BMX TRACK in the subject line.

If you would like to speak to someone about this please telephone 01225 300700



# Oak Leaf SPORTS COMPLEX

01325 310820  
www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk

## ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**Saturday 5th November 2011**

at School Aycliffe Playing Fields

Lighting of Bonfire 7pm with Display to Follow  
Fair and Refreshments Also on Site

**PLEASE NOTE: THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE PLAYING FIELDS IS CLOSED. VISITORS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO THE MAIN PLAYING FIELDS.**



Tables & Seats are available from the Sports Complex Bar between 12pm & 8.30pm

### Autumn Half Term

Courses take place during the school October holidays for ages 8 to 15 year olds (except mini sessions), to book your place or for further details ask at Reception

Booking Essential call 01325 310820

#### ARCHERY

Monday 24th October

9.30am - 11.30pm

12.00 noon - 2.00pm

£3.20 members

£3.70 non members



#### MINI ACTIVITY DAY

Tuesday 25th October

9.30am - 11.00am

£2.40 members

£2.70 non members

MINI DANCE MATS

Parents must stay

11.30am - 12.30pm

£1.00 members

£1.45 non members

for ages 4 to 7 yrs



#### ACTIVITY DAY

Wednesday 26th October

9.30am - 1.30pm

Great value activity course

Don't forget your packed lunch!



#### GRAFTY KIDS

Thursday 27th October

9.30am - 11.00am

£3.20 members

£3.70 non members

DANCE MATS

11.30am - 12.30pm

£1.00 members

£1.45 non members



#### SPORTING FUN

Friday 28th October

9.30am - 12.00 noon

You will get the chance to try Bowls, Squash, Badminton, Hockey, Dodge Ball and Team Games.

£2.40 members

£2.75 non-members



### JUNIOR SQUASH & BADMINTON COURTS

#### \* SPECIAL OFFER \*

Non-stopping coaching is happening during all School Holidays at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex for ages 8 to 10 years.

You can play Squash at our special offer rate of only **£1.50 per person, that's not all... equipment hire is FREE!**

Available Monday - Friday between 9am and 4pm

Drop in or book to play for a term.

### FIREWORKS SAFETY POSTER COMPETITION

Children of Great Aycliffe are invited to enter the competition, organised by Great Aycliffe Town Council.

For School/Primary

Prizes for - Year 2 (ages 6-7)

Year 3 and 4 (ages 7-8)

Year 5 and 6 (ages 9-10)

Year 7 and above (ages 11 and over)

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each year group. The winners will be invited to present their posters at the fireworks display on Saturday 5th November. The winners will be invited to present their posters at the fireworks display on Saturday 5th November. The winners will be invited to present their posters at the fireworks display on Saturday 5th November.

## Oak Leaf Golf Complex

School Aycliffe Lane  
Newton Aycliffe, County Durham  
Telephone (01325) 310820

18 hole course. Floodlit driving range. Buggy hire. Changing & shower facilities. Bar and catering available at Oakleaf Sports Complex. Fully stocked golf shop and resident PGA professional, Neil Whitham.

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2011/12 Season Ticket Special Offer

6 months for the price of 5

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Available from 1st October 2011

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Adult 5 Day Season Ticket	£100
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Senior Citizen (over 60) 5 Day	£85
Juniors	£35

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or visit [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

A leisure facility provided by Great Aycliffe Town Council

# COUNCIL CONSIDERS SIGNS & SPONSORSHIP TO RAISE CASH

Environmental improvements which cost tax payers nothing, a tidier county and even a potential revenue stream for the council in tough times are just some of the points to be considered by Durham County Council's Cabinet this week. Members will be asked to support a paper which shows how the authority can introduce a new and consistent approach to deal with the tricky topics of roadside advertising and illegal signs. The report also highlights the potential of income generation from sponsorship in certain areas, including roundabouts and limited town centre areas. Money which could then be spent on delivering front line services at a time when the authority faces making savings of £123.5m over the next four years.

Cabinet member for the environment, Cllr Bob Young, explains: "A great deal of work has been undertaken to study how we can protect and enhance our beautiful county, while ensuring we have a fair and consistent approach to these sensitive issues. "It is right that we ensure our highways, including pavements, are safe places free of clutter and illegal distractions, but at the same time we need to consider, in this challenging financial environment, how we can improve some areas at no cost to our residents. "That is why I am taking this report to Cabinet and asking members to agree to sponsorship of some of our highway assets in certain areas and set against strict criteria and to approve a consultation

on our policy on advertising signs and boards." The council's highways manager is Dave Wilcox: "A number of businesses have approached the authority recently to sponsor roundabouts on our highways but we are committed to ensuring a coherent and balanced approach across the county. "We do not want an array of different signs on roundabouts, in limited town centre locations or Christmas trees. The recommendations would bring about an organised approach offering a good balance and potentially a good deal for residents too." Research shows there is no definitive consistent national or regional policy covering these issues but indicates that some councils have benefited by up to £4,000 per year for each roundabout sponsored. The report to Cabinet outlines how planning and highways laws can be met alongside the needs of the business community. It also addresses the need to protect local environments including conservation areas and The World Heritage Site while offering a common sense approach to signage associated with charity and community events which would be erected only for very short periods.

# THE QUESTION ON COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Sir, I thank Ken Stubbs for his response last week. Sadly, he chose not to answer the question on attendances. In the last full year 2010-2011 out of a possible minimum 38 meetings Cllr S Bambridge Great Aycliffe Independent attended 17, Cllr G R Gray Great Aycliffe Independent attended 9, Cllr P Gittins Independent attended 9, Cllr Hewitson Independent attended 9. **All claimed and received the full allowance.** I specifically excluded Councillors whose absences were due to illness. It appears from conversations with some GAI councillors they thought that just because they are not elected on to particular committee that

they could not attend those meetings. Councils rules are quite clear that any Councillor can attend any Committee meeting and speak with the permission of that meeting if they are not a member of it. Just like they were not aware that they did not have to receive an allowance. Contrast this with say just two simple facts: Firstly, last year the GAI Councillors proposed a motion that any Councillor who is not a member of the Committee could only attend by sitting at the back of the meeting with the public! Not only was this illegal, and highly disrespectful of elected representatives it was downright anti democratic

and Labour treat it with contempt and threw the motion out. Councillors not elected at the AGM onto a Committee continue with the right to attend and speak if the Committee allows. All councillors irrespective of their politics, can be heard on matters affecting their ward in particular and the Town in general. (incidentally no councillor has ever not been allowed). Contrast this with Councillor Bill Blenkinsopp. He represents Aycliffe Village as an Independent,

because he isn't Labour nor a GAI member he was unfortunately not elected on to committees. But Bill attends every meeting he can and does speak, so at least one Independent knows how to represent their ward and can justify his allowance!) Does Ken Stubbs agree with me that Councillors who poorly attend meetings of the Council, (excluding reasons of ill health ) but who claim their full allowance deserve condemnation. It is simple really - and the public know the answer. Arun M Chandran

# PCP CONTINUES EXCELLENT SERVICE DESPITE CUTS



The Pioneering Care Centre held its Annual General Meeting on Friday 9th September and despite a difficult year with cuts in finance resulting in the loss of valuable staff and services the organisation is optimistic about the future. Chairperson Carol Briggs welcomed everyone including our MP Phil Wilson and his partner Margaret. She thanked the dedicated staff led by Jane Hartley and mentioned how vital the role of volunteers was in the success of the organisation. Their achievements were many and varied winning numerous awards for quality and service. Phil Wilson addressed the meeting stating the PCP was an asset to the area providing excellent facilities and a service with a 27% increase on visits from the previous year. He said the success of PCP is a tribute to all who worked in the Centre and was a vital part in attracting others to work and live in Newton Aycliffe. "Things are changing, we are attracting people like Hitachi and the Town Centre is being improved and the robust plans of the PCP are commendable despite the cuts" said Phil. Chief Executive Jane Hartley presented the annual report and

gave a glowing account of the impact of services on users of the centre. Heart-warming testimonials were heard including Arnie Lindley one of the volunteers who had the audience moved by his story. Arnie has been volunteering with the PCP for 2 years, taking photographs. His skills can be seen on the PCP website, in the Annual Review and on many of the leaflets promoting the Centre.

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or by special arrangement

# TAXI FOR DISABLED

Dear Sir,  
On behalf of disabled people in the town I appeal for a taxi company to provide a vehicle with a ramp.  
I have not been able to visit the shops in the town for two years and wonder if the Council could help in this matter?  
Disabled and Disgruntled.  
Name & address supplied

# Great Menu at Cubby

Starting Tuesday 26th September 2011 the lunch menu will be as follows on a TUESDAY and THURSDAY ONLY.  
Corned Beef + Potato Pie, Mash and Veg with optional Gravy.  
Cottage/Shepherds Pie with veg and optional Gravy. also a choice of Sausage + Mash with optional Gravy, Egg and Chips and All Day Breakfast!  
Bacon Sandwiches + Toasties available 6 days a week. Menu may vary from week to week.  
The Cubby, Greenwell Road near The Court.  
**PLEASE NOTE: Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning at The Cubby in Greenwell Road (opposite the Court) Friday 30th September, 9am-1pm**

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## Trustworthy Workman

Dear Sir,  
May I thank Richard of RJ Roofing for his prompt, efficient and courteous service during work he recently carried out for me.

I have been let down in the past by other tradesmen and it was nice to have a thoroughly competent and trustworthy person carry out repairs on my property. He turned up, completed the work at the price quoted which was less than other quotations received.

As a woman on her own I feel vulnerable with workmen and have been taken advantage of in the past so it was refreshing to be treated fairly and with respect.

I have no hesitation in recommending Richard to anyone.  
Ruth Harnett.

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Doorstep Lender	272.5%	£10.50	£246.00	£546.00

Its easy to join just come along to our collection point  
Newton Aycliffe Library, Central Avenue  
Tuesday 11am – 12 noon

## YOUTH CENTRE EVICT BOXING CLUB AFTER 24 YEARS

For years Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club has trained two nights a week – Tuesdays and Thursdays - at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre under the leadership of head coach Les Gibson.

Last month a series of events led to the club being given less than a week's notice to move out to make way for a dance school - one of six running in the town.

Now, devastated Les, who is also an England official, had to find a new home quickly for his boxers right at the start of a new season. "We're absolutely gutted - Aycliffe Amateur Boxing Club is my life. I've been doing this sport since I was nine years old and coaching in Newton Aycliffe for the last 24 years. It's a long time and to be treated like this is unforgivable - the members can't believe it" said Les.

Les said the problems started a few weeks ago when he was asked by the centre youth leader to give up his cupboard space to make room for other activities.

"I refused because the cupboard was given to me when the new youth centre was being built - I was consulted when they were drawing up the plans on what storage space I needed - and it contains thousands of pounds worth of boxing equipment.

"I did ask at that stage whether they wanted the club to move out and was told that wasn't the case" said Les.

The following week Les was told he could no longer have the sports hall on a Thursday night because Durham County Council had stipulated it had to be used for youth work.

"I was under the impression we still had the hall, which we hired, on a Tuesday night, although at no time was I asked if I wanted to extend my session. After a couple of days I was told I could no longer have it on a Tuesday either."

The centre management did offer Les alternative times to train his boys - on a

Monday evening and a Friday evening or Saturday, which were unsuitable given Les is a taxi driver and an England official for the ABAE.

Les said: "The Monday training session would have finished at nine - I think it's totally unreasonable to expect ten-year-old boys to walk home in the dark at that time of night.

"I also work as a taxi driver for a living, which the centre knows, so Friday is my busiest night plus many local boxing shows and championship shows are on Saturdays so I can be anywhere across the country.

"As I couldn't agree to the new times I was given a letter to say I had to be out in less than a week! At a time when the government is encouraging kids to get more active through initiatives such as 'fit for life' I feel really let down.

I've also contacted County Hall to ask if they gave any directives to the centre and have written confirmation saying they didn't - I really think the leader just wanted us out. "I love this club - and like many amateur clubs the coaches give their time voluntarily and the youth centre has just put those boys out on the streets!" Fortunately this was not the case as St. Clare's Church has offered space to the club and this is where they will train for the time being.

Former Chairman of the Youth Centre, Syd Howarth, who resigned at the last AGM was asked to comment on the matter and said: "I don't believe they can expel an affiliated club of this long standing without proper consultation and if they can't agree over a problem there should be a reasonable period of notice to enable the club to find other premises. By nature of their affiliation the club is working with children and is therefore performing youth work. To evict them to make room for youth work cannot be a reason" said Syd

## GET FIT FOR XMAS ONLY 90 DAYS TO GO!

As of Monday 26 September only 90 days to Xmas so don't wait till the new-year to make resolutions, why not start now at WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Fitness; For all you early birds we have Donna's Boot Camp 6:30am on Monday / Wednesday / Friday.

Would you like to get fit with our TAEKWONDO club Tuesday nights and Sunday Mornings?

Or get fit with our KARATE club Thursday night and Sunday Afternoon. ALL clubs are fully family orientated

You could combine fitness with weight management by joining Lorraine's ROSEMARY CONNELLY CLASS on Thursday nights or play BADMINTON on Sunday and Tuesday nights or Friday morning.

We have all seen via STRICTLY COME DANCING how ballroom dancing is great for losing weight and getting fit So why not enrol on STEP IN SIDE'S Dance classes on Monday and Wednesday nights and on Friday afternoons, we host a very popular tea dance from 2 till 4 pm. Come along and see what's on offer!



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[www.stjohnsrc.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsrc.org.uk) visit our website - Vacancies or e-mail [sanderson@stjohnsrc.org.uk](mailto:sanderson@stjohnsrc.org.uk)  
Closing Date: 12 noon - 3 October 2011  
St John's is committed to safeguarding children and rigorous Child Protection Procedures are in place. Appointments will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.



'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values'

## YOUTH CENTRE UNDER 11's EAGLES SECURE SPONSORSHIP



Local company Plastic Mouldings Northern Ltd have generously agreed to sponsor the under 11's Eagles supplying both new home and away strips for the 2011/2012 season. Mark Rigg said "Were really happy to sponsor the team they are a great bunch of lads and we wish them all well for the coming year"

John Stephenson (Manager) said "As this is their first season as an 11 a side team this sponsorship was vital to kit the whole team out and it has given the lads a great boost. We have a fantastic set of lads who show great commitment, attitude and team work which all

adds up to the recipe for a promising campaign. Thanks again to Plastic Mouldings Northern Ltd from all of the under 11's Eagles." The team train on a Tuesday night at the Oak Leaf Complex 6-7pm

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## RAILWAYS EXHIBITION

On Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd of October, Aycliffe Village Local History Society will present a railways exhibition in Aycliffe's Village Hall. The doors will open at 10am and close at 4pm, and admission is free.

If you have nothing better to do over the weekend, why not pay it a visit and watch three of Shildon Model Railway Club's layouts and see what Rail Restoration of Shildon does.

Trade stands will sell new and second hand model trains and accessories and there will be interesting railwayana and memorabilia. Refreshments will be served by Aycliffe Village Scouts. That must be better than staying at home watching the telly.

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## Casual School Cleaner

**£8.29 per hour – Scale 1 Point 4**

Greenfield wishes to appoint a reliable and hardworking casual school cleaner to work flexibly on an as and when required basis to cover for staff absences. Responsibilities for the post include cleaning designated areas of the school to a high standard as directed by the cleaning supervisor.

Please contact Mrs Susan Mouyiassi on 01325 300379 or email [susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:susan.mouyiassi@greenfieldschool.net) for further information and an application pack.

Only applications submitted on the school's application forms and completed in full by the specified date will be considered.

Greenfield College is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race, marital status or disability

**Closing Date: 12 noon 5th October 2011**

All appointments are subject to medical clearance and CRB Enhancement Checks.

Your place of work will be Greenfield Community College. The school is part of the Aycliffe and Shildon Schools Education Trust (ASSET) and you may be required to work in any of the school sites within the Trust.

# CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Lift Right Fork Lift Training made the short journey to local rivals Coundon in their final match of the season in the North East Durham League. Aycliffe won the toss and decided to bat first in a game that their hosts needed to win to retain the league championship for a second consecutive season.

On a rain affected wicket, the Coundon bowlers made life very difficult for the visiting batsmen as Aycliffe were bundled out for just 45 after 24.3 overs. In reply Aycliffe's opening bowlers Michael Howe (2 for 11) and Sean Morgan (2 for 23) gave the home side a serious scare as they slipped to 21 for 4, but ex Aycliffe batsman Viswanathan Gnanavelu (16 not out) held his nerve to help edge Coundon to a 5 wicket victory and the championship after 20 overs of tense cricket.

Newton Aycliffe's young team improved on last year's overall performance by finishing in a creditable 5th place in the top division with a playing record that reads, played 22, won 10, lost 8, drew 4 and total points 260.

# A Bottle to Protect Your Valuables from Tesco

## Crimestoppers Get a Little Help from Tesco

All it takes is a little bottle . . . and a simple dab of Crimestoppers Property Protector to give ALL your valuables a lifetime of protection. Following the launch of a unique product; Crimestoppers Property Protector, available from Tesco Extra stores across the UK.

In a strategic first, with the overall aim to widen the availability and reduce crime in our communities, leading manufacturer Stealth Mark has teamed up with Tesco in bringing to you its exclusive Crimestoppers branded product alongside a host of electrical accessories being sold by the Tesco Extra Tech Team within 82 stores across the UK.

With home burglaries currently taking place at a rate of more than one a minute, according to a British Crime Survey published by The Home Office in July this year, Crimestoppers Property Protector is an effective low cost solution to deterring crime. Each bottle provides up to 200 applications and comes with deterrent stickers for your home and valuables. Now available at Tesco Extra for less than 10p an application - it represents great value.

Crimestoppers Property Protector is manufactured by Stealth Mark and is a patented, police approved technology licensed under the ACPO, Secured by Design

accreditation scheme. It is a clear liquid solution; each bottle has a unique code from combination of microparticles. Simply by dabbing a small amount of Crimestoppers Property Protector onto valuable items you give them their own coded fingerprint. Crimestoppers Property Protector is a buy once protect forever on their lifetime free property registration database which provides for ease of identification by police to aid recovered stolen items to be returned to the rightful owner.

Actor Graham Cole, who played PC Tony Stamp in ITV1's The Bill is supporting the venture and will appear at selected in-store demonstrations, he said: "I played the part of a police officer for 27 years and I'm now pleased to support a real crime-fighting effort. Crimestoppers plays a vital role in helping make our streets safer - and the Tesco Extra initiative with Crimestoppers Property Protector makes it that much easier to make your valuables safer too."

Deputy Chief Executive for Crimestoppers, Dave Cording, said: "This is a first for Crimestoppers and we are encouraged that Tesco has agreed to stock this unique product across the UK within their stores."

Clive Smith, Chairman at Stealth Mark Europe said: "It has been a long held vision to

make our technology widely available and at no cost to the public purse, the Tesco Extra listing is a first move towards helping a reduction in the cost and burden that crime inflicts on our local communities, in fact, you could say every little helps".

## Tickets Online for 'Misery'

Tickets are now available to buy online for Stage One Productions forthcoming thriller 'MISERY' by Stephen King at St. Clare's Church Hall..

Website tickets can be purchased and paid for instantly and safely via PayPal, with no fuss and maximum security. To book online go to: www.stage-one-productions.co.uk

**P.A.C.T. Meeting**  
Police And Community Together



Meeting will be held at Simpature Court Coffee Lounge on Tuesday 27th September from 6-30pm to 7.30pm. Another will be held at Aycliffe Village Hall, Saturday 1st October from 11-00am to 12 noon. This meeting will also incorporate a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting.

The 2011-12 replica kits **OUT NOW**

Shirts £36 adults and £35 children, Shorts £13/£12, Socks £7/£6. Available from the Arena Club shop online. See how many reception weekdays 11am-5pm and by mail order on 0871 823 1813



**GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Planning Sub-Committee Meeting**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 5th OCTOBER 2011 at 4.00p.m.**

**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.

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".

## Beware! Scooter Thief

Dear Sir,  
I write to inform residents in the area of Guthram Place that my 6 year old boy's black J.D. BUG scooter was stolen from the garden at approximately 7.35-7.45 on Tuesday 13th September. He loves scooting around with his friends and had his scooter about a year. It has really upset him to think somebody has stolen his prized possession. What sort of person could steal a kids scooter and how would they feel if anyone stole any of their kid's or brother's and sisters toys? We would know the scooter again and if anyboy has any information on its whereabouts please contact the Newton News on 300212.

There is a reward for its return.  
Resident.

## Have a Ball

An annual Charity Ball will be held at Spennymoor Town Hall on Saturday, 29th October. The evening starts at 7pm with drinks reception, followed by a three course meal, music and dancing to local band 'In The Mood', as well as a bottle tombola, raffle and silent auction.

The ball, in aid of Butterwick Hospice in Bishop Auckland, will help raise vital funds for the charity. The hospice maintains high standards of patient care and fundraising is a vital and essential element of ensuring the Hospice is always there to serve the local community with it's free services and advice.

Tickets are £35 each and can be pre-booked or reserved by calling Butterwick Hospice and speaking to Lynn Albury in the Fundraising Team on 01388 603003 or emailing lynnalbury@butterwick.org.uk

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**Girls Big Night In**

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Ring 357345 for a copy, but if you would like to discuss the matter ask Steven who will make arrangements.  
If you are caring for a relative and don't claim an allowance it could be worthwhile making an appointment. Age UK will help you with the paperwork. You will need your pension book and National Health number and any other relevant documents.  
The Government have millions of pounds unclaimed and you should make sure you have not missed your entitlement.  
If in doubt contact Peter Beaty on 313924.

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