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## INEFFECTIVE COUNCILLORS SHOULD RESIGN

### LABOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS CONDEMN POOR REPRESENTATION BY SOME INDEPENDENTS

The Labour Group on Great Aycliffe Town Council acknowledge that the Independent Councillors who fought in the 2007 election did so because they wanted to make a difference in our town. However, once elected, they found that the Council was well-run ethically, organisationally and

financially, and that the controlling Labour group was already committed to continual improvement. In terms of policy, the budget and future plans, the Independents have not made any meaningful difference to the Town Council. Consequently, some Independent Councillors, in the fifth year of this Council, are now just 'going through the motions' and taking the money. Recent letters have named three individuals in particular. Since these Councillors attend fewer than 10 times in a year (for which they are receiving an effective rate of pay

in excess of £100 an hour), and don't speak when they do attend, how can they claim to be representing the people who elected them?

It is a scandal which we feel we need to bring to the attention of the public. We ask those Councillors to consider whether it is time to resign. There are people, active in our community, who deserve the opportunity to join the Council and make a contribution to our town ... and these silent/inactive Councillors are getting in their way.

*Joint declaration by the Labour Group on Great Aycliffe Council*

## ARE YOU RAISING CASH FOR CHILDREN IN NEED?

If your club, company or organisation is organising something for "Children in Need" you may wish to advertise it in Newton News.

We will be listing the events before the day and invite you to publicise your efforts for this worthwhile charity. Send details by e-mail to [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk) and afterwards send in photos and how much you raised.

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**THE IRON HORSE**  
Emerson Way, Newton Aycliffe

Saturday 29th October, 7-11pm  
Halloween Fancy Dress Party

Sunday 30th October, 12-2pm  
Kids Halloween Fancy Dress Party

North East Music Junkies presents  
**"WORKING CLASS"**  
Friday 4th November 2011  
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**J&C COACHES**  
*Forthcoming Attractions*

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Tuesday 1st November 2011 - Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle £35.00

Sister Act "The Musical"  
Saturday 19th November 2011 - The Empire Theatre, Sunderland £53.50

Annie "The Musical"  
Friday 2nd December 2011 - The Empire Theatre, Sunderland £37.50

The Saturdays  
Saturday 10th December 2011 - Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle £38.50

Status Quo presents "Quofest"  
Friday 16th December 2011 - Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle £49.50

"X" Factor . . . The 'Live' Tour  
Monday 19th March 2012 - Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle £45.50

Chris Rea  
Saturday 31st March 2012 - Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle £45.50

JLS - The 4th Dimension Tour  
Friday 27th April 2012 - Metro Radio Arena, Newcastle £44.50

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## COMMUNITY CINEMA



Residents are invited to come along to a FREE showing at the new COMMUNITY CINEMA. All members of the family are invited to come along. You are invited to bring your own popcorn and refreshments.

**SATURDAY 29th OCTOBER 2011**  
**WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**FILM STARTS AT 6.00PM**  
**DOORS OPEN 5.45PM**  
**DRESS OPTIONAL**  
**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

## Tonight's The Night!

Showcase Entertainments International shows have proved very popular and on Wednesday 9th November 2011 they bring back the legendary JIMMY CRICKET, star of television, stage and pantomime Showcase Entertainments under the direction of Geoffrey J.L. Hindmarch,

have already brought to the area stars such as Syd Little, Jess Conrad, Paul Daniels, Cannon & Ball and Danny La Rue bringing back Jimmy Cricket by popular demand. Jimmy is back in Darlington Civic Theatre this year, after 21 years, with Ray Quinn in Cinderella.

Last time Jimmy appeared for Showcase was in June this year and they are proud to welcome him back. Jimmy had everyone roaring in the aisles from the moment he walked on the stage last time as the packed audience were taken back to old fashioned variety and family entertainment.

Performing alongside Jimmy will be one of the UK's top male vocalists direct from The Billy Pearce Laughter Show at Blackpool, NEIL HURST.

The show will also star and be choreographed by PAUL MORGAN who this year will be appearing at The Theatre Royal Nottingham with Joe Pasquale. This will be a rare evening of fabulous music, comedy, spectacular costumes and dancing performed by one of the best dance troupes in the country THE SHOWCASE DANCERS. They have been appearing in Blackpool throughout the summer alongside Joe Longthorne and Billy Pearce at The Grand Theatre, Blackpool. Come along for a pre Christmas treat. The show will also feature members of Stagecoach of Bishop Auckland who have been handpicked to appear in this production.

This is the ninth show Showcase have produced at Shildon Civic Hall since Christmas last year and they wish to thank the management and staff at Shildon for all their kind help over the year. TICKETS ARE £12.00 - Tel 316224 for information

## A Night Out at Aycliffe Theatre

Dear Sir,  
I would like, through Newton News, to suggest a theatre outing to St Clare's Church Hall, to see Stephen King's "Misery" on Wednesday to Saturday, 26th- 29th October.

While working at St Clare's over the past weeks, I have seen the production grow and take shape, from auditions to dress rehearsals. The work, time and effort put in by Stage One Productions, along with an obvious knowledge of the business, is bound to result in a sure fire winner.

Productions on the town seem usually to be pantomimes or singing and the like, but this company has chosen something different. "Misery" isn't going to have you laughing in the aisles, but the tension will surely have you on the edge of your seat.

A good deal of work has

gone into a great set, and attention to detail both front of house and behind the scenes will give us a real theatre experience. Tea, coffee and wine will be available during the interval and tickets are

just £7, £6 concessionary rate, with a special offer of 2 for £10. Please give it a try, the town now has a budding theatre company, let's make it a successful one. Ring 324932 for details.

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**Sat 22nd October - "RELOAD"**

Recent review - "With Reload you know what you're getting? Classic Rock Songs covering the spectrum from Free to Deep Purple and everything in between, played by a band that confidently knows what it's doing, and does it extremely well. Check out the music videos and music files on their web site for a fair representation of what the band is all about. No one leaves when this band is playing!" - Don't miss them! - "Classic Rock never sounded better" Re-booked after a very successful debut gig last year at the Tub. www.reloadonline.co.uk

**Saturday 29th October - "TOMMY & THE ODDBALLS"**  
**Halloween Fancy Dress Party**

Massive on the Bike Rally circuit, always first band booked for the 'Heart n Soul'

Recent reviews from Teen Rock Pages: 'Awesome band, as ever they played absolutely brilliantly. Tommy as fantastic as ever (THE best frontman in the NorthEast, bar none, the man is an inspiration, a legend), Jeff playing goosebump solos on Hay Joe, I can't believe how good they were. It was like walking into a pub, full of your best mates with the best goddamn juke box you could hope for. Every member of the band is a really good and talented player. The timing was great, the entertainment value was great too. The audience (well packed) loved it from the off.'

Tracks covered by The Who, Bryan Adams, Thin Lizzy, Free, Hendrix, Stones, Bad Company, Kings of Leon and much much more. Should be one of The Gigs of the year. Don't miss it!!  
www.tommyandtheoddballs.website.orange.co.uk

**Saturday 5th November - "UNCLE GILBERT"**

RIFFS ONLINE REVIEW: 'An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and 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, Calf, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and much more  
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## Town Centre Update

The Management team of Aycliffe Town Centre are delighted to announce that the "Stopping Up Order" for the footpath off Greenwell Road was confirmed this week. Now that the footpath has been closed, it is possible to proceed with the enabling works for the new Aldi store and diverting the gas and electricity supplies that run through the site.

Northern Electric Distribution Ltd (NEDL) have supplied the following information regarding the diversion of existing electricity cable - LV Diversion in Dalton Way. This section is the part across Dalton Road; all excavation will take place in the highway, outside the site on Sunday 23rd October through to 21st November.

After then all cables will be in the locations as per the agreed plan. Northern Gas Networks (NGN) will commence their diversions on Monday 24th October and the works are expected to take two weeks to complete.

A building contractor has been selected for the new Aldi store and works are expected to commence at the start of 2012.

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## Editorial

### WHAT ABOUT OUR TOWN CENTRE?

*In this issue is information on a report by a Government agency aiming to improve town centres. How this or any report affects Newton Aycliffe is open to speculation. We are unusual, perhaps unique, in having a town centre which is privately owned and no one yet has been able to over-rule what the owners say or want in relation to marketing, rent levels or improvements to the environment.*

*Some pressure has been applied to influence what is now taking place and one has to accept the landlords are making a respectable effort in the current poor economic climate.*

*But, the long awaited re-development is slow in coming and we just have to wait and hope it will eventually lead to a centre in which we can take some pride. Maybe then Newtonians will return to support our shopkeepers.*

*Newton News made the suggestion often that the town centre pedestrian areas should be returned to public ownership so that we could take advantage of funding from other sources and make environmental improvements to make it more attractive.*

*Other Town Centres nearby have received help in this respect from the local authority and other funding sources and Aycliffe has missed out because the centre is privately owned.*

*Shildon for example had a major improvement scheme and other local towns have been tidied up and given a face lift.*

*Perhaps if we had possession of our own town centre (when the landlords have completed the re-development) we could instill some civic pride to ensure it remained an attraction to visitors. We could also then take advantage of schemes to help town centres, currently being discussed.*

## International School Award for Woodham College



Woodham Community Technology College has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

The British Council has just launched a new website as a 'one stop shop' to help schools find international opportunities, including the International School Award. Any school can find out how to apply by visiting <http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolsonline>

John Rolfe from the British Council, said: "Many congratulations to all the schools across the UK who have been successful in gaining the International School Award. We're very grateful to all the schools for their excellent commitment to the enriching, creative and innovative international dimensions of teaching and learning. Their inspirational work is vital preparation for all our young people,

helping them to better understand their place in the world and supporting the development of their skills in an increasingly global economy."

On hearing the news that Woodham had received the Award, Anna Wass, lead teacher for International Schools said: "Promoting internationalism amongst youngsters is of the utmost importance. Here at Woodham, we embrace the international dimensions which provides our students with cultural understanding. Our many study visits abroad allow our students to develop

skills which allow them to become global citizens."

## C.A.T.S. GET "GREASED" UP

After just completing another successful production, the C.A.T.S. Youth Theatre Group are going straight into their next production, the ever popular "Grease" musical, which will be performed in March 2012.

A spokesperson for the group said "We are on the look out for young people who would like to be part of this production aged 8 to 11 years old. Don't worry if you can't sing, dance or act as we will teach you. If you can then we will improve on your present talents. So any young Sandy's or Danny Zukos out there are welcome to join the group. Even if you are not sure about joining, why not come along, sit and watch, there's no commitment to join." For more information ring 01388 774838. [www.cats-theatre.co.uk](http://www.cats-theatre.co.uk)

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## Wind Farm Protest Gathers Pace



The Wind Farm protestors were at the Tuesday Market in the Town Centre this week collecting signatures for their petition. They are grateful for the support they received from Newtonians and urge everyone to help stop our County becoming a dumping ground for wind turbines while others have none!

## Join Music Group for Old Time Music Hall Concert

Aycliffe Musical Theatre are starting rehearsals for their next production, an Old Time Music Hall to be performed in St. Clare's Church Hall in March next year. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome to come along to Greenfield School Arts and Community Centre any Wednesday at 7pm. Why not pop in and see what we do or for further details ring Trevor on 01325 318968.

## St. Mary's Hold Open Afternoon

St Mary's School are holding an Open Afternoon on 2nd November. The intention of the session is to enable members of the community to come and look at our school while it is working, to get to know us better. This might be particularly useful for the families of children who are due to start school next September.

Application forms for student admission to school in September 2012 will be available.

If you are unable to attend but would like to find out more about the school, please ring our secretary, Mrs Shield, to arrange an appointment on 300 339

## SALE EVENT

A Bric-a-Brac, Toy and Book Sale will be held on Tuesday 25th October 10am - 12 noon at St Clares Church Hall. Refreshments served.

## Dance School Record Attempt



On Sunday the 16th October the Macadam School Of Dance took part in The Performers Project Tapathon World Record Attempt 2011, this is to break the world record for the number of people doing the same tap routine throughout the country at the same time. Pupils and parents from Aycliffe & Esh Winning dance schools participated, some parents having never had tap shoes on before practicing for the event all commented on what a great event it was and were proud to be part of it and £320 was raised for Children In Need. We are hoping to make next years even bigger and better!! Thank you to you all from Mary & Diane.

## PREPARATION FOR JUBILEE WOODLAND

Great Aycliffe Town Council have agreed to plant a new woodland to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The area which covers approximately 2 hectares is in Woodham Burn and runs along the bank side between Kendrew Close and the back of Woodham Technical College and will include a series of woodland copses separated by areas of wildflower meadows.

Preparation works have already begun with the areas to be planted up with trees being sprayed off with herbicide in late September to ensure the trees have a maximum chance of survival in the future. The grass is beginning to die

back now and so the area which will be planted with trees is now clearly visible to anyone walking the area. Several local schools and community groups have already been contacted and have agreed to assist Great Aycliffe Town Council in the planting of trees in the area; any group willing to assist is being encouraged to contact the Environment Officer on 0777 9090842 or [steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

In addition, a public tree planting session will be organised in late November where individuals and families will be encouraged to help; details of this event will be confirmed in the Newton News closer to the time.

## Are you planning an event in aid of Children in Need 2011?

### NEWTON NEWS CAN HELP

Newton News offers its pages to any fundraiser who would like a bit of FREE publicity for their event in aid of "Children in Need".



Contact [syd@newtonnews.co.uk](mailto:syd@newtonnews.co.uk)

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Saturday 9th - S.H.A.G.S. Christmas Party  
4 course meal, Live Entertainment + Disco £15.95  
Sunday 11th - Ladies Section Turkey Trot  
12.00noon

Monday Night Quiz - 8.00pm Start  
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Live Premiership & Champions League Football  
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Sunday Carvery, 12-2pm - Bookings Advised

For details telephone: (01325) 301551

## CHECK IT OUT!

"Check it Out" is an interactive installation that is made by young people for young people. It uses film, graphics, light and sound to explore teenage issues. "Check it Out" has been funded by GAMP Area Action Partnership to tour to Greenfield and Woodham Schools so every young person 11-16 can experience it.

The experience challenges young peoples perceptions and encourages them to consider their lifestyle choices. Part of the experience includes a film about alcohol and a sound piece about relationships. The project was originally commissioned by Sedgefield Locality Childrens board and was developed and project managed by Katy

Milne at Greenfield Arts Centre. Over 100 young people worked with professional artists, youth workers, health workers and education workers to create the installation in which they decided which issues they would like to explore.

"Check it Out" visited 6 community venues last year and over 800 young people were given the experience. 97% of those young people said they enjoyed it and thought it was a good way to explore teenage issues.

This tour is funded by GAMP AAP. There are sessions available for adults to experience Check it Out. If you are interested please contact the Arts Centre to find out more on 379 048

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## Councillor Makes Three Moves

Dear Sir,  
Town Councillor Alison Palmer was elected as an Independent and then moved to the Lib Dems and now I hear she has joined the Labour Party!

And, since being elected she has not attended one PACT Meeting or held a Surgery in the ward she represents. I now hear Counc Palmer doesn't even live in the ward.

As a member of the public I try to attend meetings in the ward as I believe they are important. I would have liked to have been told by the Councillor herself of her change of party allegiance.

Disillusioned  
Name & Adress supplied

## 3M EMPLOYEES OPEN WINDOW ON WORK FOR SCHOOLS



Employees at 3M's Aycliffe

site are sharing their career experiences online to give school students a personal insight into the world of work. The diversified technology company has devised a free online resource for secondary schools. 3M Careerwise (www.3mcareerwise.co.uk) is aimed primarily at students aged 11-14 – particularly those who are considering their choice of GCSE subjects.

The website uses a questionnaire to help the students focus on what interests and motivates them and then matches their results with short video interviews of the 3M employees who share similar characteristics.

The employees reveal such insights as what they were like at school, the jobs they've done since then, what they do now and what advice they would give their teenage selves.

Among them is Lisa Pape, who completed a four-year apprenticeship in September at the Aycliffe site to become a mechanical engineer. Lisa explained: "I'd never thought about a career in engineering when I was doing my GCSEs and I think very few girls do. It wasn't an option for me then because I really didn't have any knowledge of what it involved."

"I hope 3M Careerwise will help redress that for young students by highlighting the wide range of opportunities there are for girls like me." Giving her support to the launch of the new resource is broadcaster Maggie Philbin, who has long championed the importance of students choosing science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects as a path to future careers.

Maggie commented: "3M Careerwise is a great idea to get the students thinking about the types of careers there are out there and the qualifications they'll need to pursue them."

"There's still a wide misconception that doing science subjects at school tends to only lead to careers involving working in a laboratory. The experiences that the 3M employees share in the videos show that's very far from the

truth." 3M Careerwise has been designed to inspire students who use the resource on their own or during group class discussions led by school career advisers.

## Learn How to use New Gadgets

Terrified of new technology? Do you have a digital camera? Have you always planned to find out how to use it? Learn the basics of how to use, store and process your digital camera photos. Our new friendly 8 week 2 hour Basic Digital Photography course (with tea and bicky break) is starting at Woodham Village Community Centre on the 26th Oct at 9.30am. At 11.30am our very popular "drop in sessions" for those terrified about trying to use a computer are starting. Tim, Mike, Daniel and myself can give you individual help especially if you have never used a computer before.

Come along have a cup of tea, meet us, have a good laugh and find how over 300 people just like you have been shown how to use the internet and e-mail. David Sutton-Lloyd 316144.

## SPECIAL NEEDS CLUB FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Agnew Community Association are calling a Special Meeting on TUESDAY 25th OCTOBER at 6pm, for Parents/Carers of young people aged from 8 to 16 years to have their views on having a Special Needs Sports Club at the Agnew Community Centre.

Should you be unable to attend but would want to show an interest then please contact us on agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com or ring the Secretary on 01325-321504 office, 301033 home.

We would also like any other interested parties, organisations or individuals, to come along as we are looking for supporters for this much needed project for Newton Aycliffe. We hope to have in attendance

on the night, Anderson Sports Development, Reach Out Care, Aycliffe Community Nursery, County Councillors, PCP, Xcel Church & Community Police.

Please note that Aycliffe Community Nursery would like to hear from any Parents/Carers of special needs of the age group of birth to 5 years, as they are looking to train their staff in this area.

Please come along on the night to discuss this or again contact the Agnew Centre for contacts or go on line to look at the nursery website for direct contacts.

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible for the start of what we believe will be a new era in this field for Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding communities.

### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 2nd November 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.

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".



### 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, 2nd NOVEMBER 2011**  
at 4.00p.m.

#### QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also 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".

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Tel: 0191 377 8227



PRAISE FOR LOCAL SOLAR  
PANEL INSTALLERS

REPORT ILLEGAL SALE  
OF FIREWORKS

HALLOWEEN FAMILY  
NIGHT OUT

Dear Sir,  
Newton News carried the alarming headline "Beware Installing Solar Energy Panels" exactly 4 days before we were due to have 15 panels installed onto our property. However we were relieved to find out the information it held concerned cowboy installers, and of course the "rent a roof" scheme. We had our panels installed by the most fantastic, professional, articulate, polite and informative group of people we have ever come across. The company is local (important to us) based in Bishop Auckland "One Planet Solar". After 3 quotes and visits by other installers, Mark and Pete came across as the most trustworthy and honest. They were patient beyond reasoning, I am not the most technical minded person, and I am the most sceptical, how could putting 15 panels on our roof reduce our electricity bills, produce more electric than we could use and we get paid for it as well? They explained everything - more than once and in a very simplistic way. The scaffolding duly arrived on the Wednesday and on Thursday morning Pete and Kev arrived and began work. Up went the railings for the panels, no mess, no fuss, just a few cups of coffee and chocolate biscuits, they explained everything they were doing step by step, stage by stage. Taking time with all they did. They respected our property from the moment they came over the threshold for the initial interview. It was as if it was their own. Friday the panels were on and we were fully wired up! The only disappointment was it was dark by the time they had finished and we didn't witness the first kilowatt being produced! However on Saturday morning we had the most glorious weather and we were away! Our electricity meter came to a standstill and has been going backwards! It was like Christmas! Everything these people explained to us happened down to the last dot on the i and cross on the t. We cannot recommend this company enough and thank them for their understanding, professionalism and exceptionally high standard of work ethics and equipment.

We only wish all your readers who are so negative of alternative energy (dare we mention the Wind Farm!) would come to see for themselves just how fantastic these Solar Panels are!  
If you are in the Cobblers Hall area look across we are glinting in the sunshine! If you are really interested we are willing to bore you to death with what we are producing, what we are using and yes how many pennies we are making! Many thanks One Planet Solar! You were and are out of this world!  
Regards  
Mark, Rebecca, Oliver and Edward Dobson.

NEW CLUB  
FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS

A new club is being formed at School Aycliffe Community Centre on Monday 24th October from 2pm until 4pm. Come along and join our New Club for Senior Citizens, Everybody welcome Ring 01325 308094 for more details.

A new hotline is available for County Durham residents to report illegal sales of fireworks. In conjunction with the Safe Durham Partnership, Durham County Council's trading standards team has launched the number in a bid to tackle an increase in unregistered sellers, the supply of banned fireworks and illegal sales to children. As bonfire night approaches flyers promoting the hotline will be delivered to homes in problem hotspots, asking for help to identify anyone selling fireworks from houses, pubs, mobile shops and car boot sales. Last year the council seized a large quantity of illegal bangers, that when tested on a dummy, were shown capable of blowing someone's hand off. Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection, said: "With the recession the offer of cheap fireworks may be tempting but people must be very careful as they might not comply with strict safety standards and can be very dangerous." Cllr Bob Young, Cabinet member for strategic environment, added: "The community can play a big part in tackling the issues associated with the supply of illegal goods and sales to youngsters. "Aside from the nuisance caused by misuse, none of us want unsafe fireworks to fall into the hands of our children and put them at risk." All illegal fireworks seized by the council are being destroyed by professional display organisers 21st Century Fireworks of North Road, Darlington. The hotline number is 03000 260913. An answering machine service operates outside office hours.

A Halloween Disco & Fancy Dress for children and parents is at the Leisure Centre on Friday 28th October from 6pm until 9pm. Admission is £2.00, children under 1 yr. FREE. Music and entertainment is provided by the fantastic K.D.O. Disco. There will be a tuck shop and the lounge bar will be open. Age limit for young people is 11yrs. Come and have a family night of fun. More details from Cllr Dorothy Bowman on 308094.

Siesta Blinds 25th Birthday



Siesta Blinds at Aycliffe was founded in October 1986 by Jim Forbes. A genuine family business they began making blinds in the back bedroom of the family home in 1986. The company is run by Jim Forbes, Joan his wife, sons Steven and Alan along with daughters Lynn and Diane. They have a factory on Aycliffe Business Park and have supplied blinds throughout the country and overseas. They have state of the art machinery which cuts and bonds the vertical louvres for added strength and better appearance. Siesta also supply blinds to the trade and have franchised businesses elsewhere in the UK. Siesta employs 12 people and are enjoying increased demand for their service and will soon be moving to bigger and better premises.

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Edith Road  
Newton Aycliffe  
£150,000

4 well presented, modern three bed and two bath house. Modern fitted kitchen, WC, master bedroom, large garden, swimming pool, etc.

North Road  
Darlington  
£200,000

Two story, modern, detached property, has a great potential to be transformed into a 4 bed. Excellent value.

Kestrel Court  
Newton Aycliffe  
£660 pcm

3 bed house, central heating, double garage, driveway, lounge/diner, kitchen, lounge and parking, double WC. Large garden with patio and garden shed. Call 01325 311737 for details. Application fee and references required.

Lee Green  
£560 pcm

Three bedroom house, central heating, double garage, driveway, lounge/diner, kitchen, lounge and parking, double WC. Large garden with patio and garden shed. Call 01325 311737 for details. Application fee and references required.

Gattham Place  
Newton Aycliffe  
£180,000

3 bedroom and 2 bath house in a modern development in Newton Aycliffe. Fitted kitchen, WC, WC and new garden. Must be seen!

Annand Way  
Cobblers Hall  
£140,000

Competitively priced 3 bedroom detached house, double garage, new kitchen, lounge, WC, etc.

Emerson Way  
Newton Aycliffe  
£175,000

3 bedroom house, double garage, WC, modern kitchen, etc. Fully refurbished.

Opus Road  
Shildon  
£175,000

Three bedroom with garage, WC, WC and WC. In location. Central heating, double garage, etc. Fully refurbished.

Beachfields  
Newton Aycliffe  
£157,000

Four bedroom detached house, double WC, kitchen, lounge, etc. Fully refurbished.

Ida Place  
Newton Aycliffe  
£174,000

4 well presented and improved 3 bed and 2 bath house. Close to shops, school and play area. Modern fitted kitchen, central heating, modern bathroom, etc. Fully refurbished.

Carlton Place  
Newton Aycliffe  
£175,000

Modern improved 3 bedroom and 2 bath house, fitted kitchen, double garage, WC, etc. Fully refurbished.

Swick Crescent  
Newton Aycliffe  
£167,000

An excellent 3 bedroom and 2 bath house, fitted kitchen, double garage, etc. Fully refurbished.

Chillingham Grove  
Woodham Village  
£171,000

An excellent 3 bedroom and 2 bath house, fitted kitchen, double garage, etc. Fully refurbished.

CLOVER COURT  
3 bed detached - £101,850  
MERZ ROAD  
3 bed end terrace - £80,000  
SUNNYDALE  
3 bed semi - £80,000  
MELLANBY CRESCENT  
3 bed end terrace - £122,000  
KESTREL COURT  
3 bed detached - £142,000  
LINGARD WALK  
3 bed terrace - £115,000  
CHAPMAN CLOSE  
2 bed end terrace - £88,000  
ROWAN PLACE  
4 bed semi - £82,000  
FINCHALE ROAD  
3 bed detached - £185,000



## Aycliffe Bridge Club

A non-affiliated Bridge Club meets every Monday evening from 7.00pm in the Function Room at the Oak leaf Sports Complex. So, whether it's to try something new or brush up your existing skills why not come along? It's a great way to make new friends, and a warm welcome awaits you. For further information contact Alan Race on 01740 651663.

## CLEAR OUT YOUR CLOSETS

The Sue Ryder Shop in Newton Aycliffe is a great place to grab a bargain. Currently in store we have a fabulous range of Autumn-Winter clothing and accessories. We also have on sale a colourful collection of Halloween costumes at great prices! Our Christmas raffle tickets are now available to purchase from the shop, first prize is £5000. We really appreciate and rely on the generosity of our volunteers and customers but this is not the only way you can help us. By giving us the things you no longer need or use and gift-aiding your donations you're helping people to get the end of life care they need, and you're helping their carers, friends and families too. People who donate to us are essential to our charity, we couldn't carry on doing our work without you, please consider donating today.

# Girls' Big Night In Raised £2,458

Thank you so much to all the lovely ladies who came to the Get Set Kids Girls Big Night In on Wednesday 12th October at Xcel Centre. We had a fabulous turnout of around 400 ladies, Fifty local businesses had stalls selling everything from hats to chocolates and we raised a whopping £2,458 for our two chosen charities, Cash For Kids and Lymphoma and Leukaemia Research. TFM's Amy McConnell from the Wake Up With Wayne Breakfast Show and Antony Collins from Drivetime came along to support the night too. Kerina Clark, the Xcel Centre Manager did a fantastic job as MC for the evening and once again the centre proved a wonderful venue. Our thanks to everyone who was involved in any way with the event. Alison & Abbi Editor: This was a great event and well supported judging by the number of cars stacked all over the roads near the venue. Xcel have recognised the shortage of parking spaces for major events at their Conference Centre and are trying to obtain more land. They apologise for any inconvenience.



## Andrew's Courage Earns Him an Award

Andrew Forbes (14) of Arncliffe Place has been nominated for an award for his bravery in tackling a brain tumour which was diagnosed in May last year. He is recovering from major brain surgery and six weeks of radiotherapy but unfortunately there is some cancer left in the brain which needs to be constantly monitored. His mother Rachel told Newton News she and her husband Steven are very proud of their son who has never let the illness get to him and has inspired his parents with his courage. Sister Sophie, aged 16, is studying to be a nurse and since her brother's illness wants to specialise in Oncology. Andrew attends Greenfield School, but needs to return home in the afternoon due to tiredness. He loves football and plays midfield. The Clic Sargent Social Worker nominated Andrew for the award as he is so amazing in trying to lead a normal life. The whole family will be picked up by limo and taken to the presentation at St James Park the home of Newcastle United, the team Andrew supports. He gets to meet some of the players and tour the ground.



In addition to his award Andrew receives £500 to spend. We salute this brave young man and wish him well for the future. Photo: Andrew and Rachel

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**Telephone 01325 312121**

## WIND FARM OR ATOMIC WASTE?

Dear Sir,  
To all would be novice scientist I ask which you would prefer for Newton Aycliffe WIND FARMS or an ATOMIC WASTE DUMPING GROUND? Unless you're blind, deaf or stupid you must have seen that the government are trying to allocate an area of our National Park to the west of us as storage for this unwanted junk and how many millions is it going to cost the tax payer? AYCLIFFE TO MERGE WITH YARM I wish our political parasites would get this through the mirk they call brains and understand the north east of England as far the natives are concerned consists of two counties County Durham and Northumberland. Parts of County Durham were stolen from us in the last political shift around. County Durham has a heritage which most southerners would be proud of and it is these people who are jealous of our NORTH EAST heritage and want it for themselves. Geordie Name & address supplied.

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## Bank Overgrowth Could Cause Flooding



Dear Sir,  
I have received numerous complaints from residents of West Ward on the state of the Burn where overgrowth has not been cut back for a long time. The fear is that when winter and bad weather arrives it could cause flooding. I am told the area near Stephenson Way bridge along towards Whinlatter Place has never been touched.

I passed the complaint to the County Councillor for the Ward at a recent PACT Meeting, for this

and problems with the path down Stephenson Way, and hopefully some action will be taken.

This part of the Burn is man made with concrete and is a very nice feature, but obviously drainage and flooding can be a problem.  
**Alderman George Gray**  
Independent Town Councillor West Ward

## Boy Finds Gold Watch

Dear Sir  
I am a 14 year old Newtonian and last weekend found a watch in the Town Centre Park.

It is quite unusual and I think could have great sentimental value to the owner.

The watch in is an old fashioned gold pocket watch. I think the owner is possibly an older gentleman. I hope the owner reads and gets in touch so that owner to come forward so I can return it. It is very distinctive and the owner will be able to describe it.

My home phone number is 01325 313962.

Jamie Adams

## HALF TERM WACKY WORKSHOP

On Wednesday 26th October at the Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon the Young Entertainers Wacky Workshop will take place from 10am to 3pm.

Now in it's 6th year this popular half term event is a must for all young people aged 8 to 16 years to go along and have a crazy day of fun games, music and laughter.

The organisers inform us it is just £1 entrance to the Centre. Bring a packed lunch, a smile and plenty of enthusiasm.

## Rotary Club Dictionary Gift to Students



The final Yr 6 class in the town to receive a free illustrated dictionary from the Rotary Club was Stephenson Way and our photo shows the grateful recipients with two Rotarians who made the presentations, Alan Crawshaw and Jean Thompson.

## Getting Very Messy in St. Clare's Church

Messy Church was definitely very messy - but lots of fun! The children were invited to take part in the 'Messy Welly Challenge', where they could put their feet in wellies filled with baked beans, custard, rice pudding or jelly! Yuk! But of course, they LOVED it and this challenge raised £29 for the Harvest Charity.

The children heard the parable of the sower and then had great fun acting this out. Apple and Pear Prayers were hung on the prayer tree and each child received a harvest blessing from Revd. Linda. Printing with fruit and vegetables was very popular and these prints decorated the church for the Harvest Festival Service the next morning. The children and their families then shared a Harvest tea, made by the Messy Tea Team! A very big thank you to all who

came and also to the tidy-up team.

Messy Church was part of a very busy weekend celebrating Harvest at St. Clare's. The young people of the parish helped to prepare and serve a Harvest Lunch for 40 members of the church. They prepared a ham broth and fruit crumble. Then held a quiz which made everybody think about the food on their plates. The tables looked superb and the girls worked very hard all weekend and are a real credit to the parish, their families and their faith. Well done girls! Messy Church for Advent will be Saturday 10th December at 3pm.

## Schoolchildren Receive Safety Badges



Over the last few years Co-op Funeral Homes around the country have successfully worked with local primary schools to help keep children safe

at this time of year, when clocks go back and long dark nights arrive, by donating reflective badges to children.

Last year over 55,000 badges were given away and the aim is to distribute even more this year supported by Brake, the National Road Safety Charity. Recently Dave Scott funeral director and Chris Thompson administrator at The Co-operative Funeralcare in Macmillan Road, visited Woodham Burn Primary School where they met with police support officers Gavin Laycock and Ben Cloke to distribute "Be Safe Be Seen" badges to the children.

## BOUNDARY PETITION

Dear Sir,  
I did sign the Boundaries' petition on line at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/18604>. However, my wife was unable to sign, as we were only allowed one vote/signature on our Email address. We, like many others in Co. Durham, only have one E Mail address per household - not one each. May I suggest that we make up petitions for all to sign at selected venues throughout the area, this way everyone will have the opportunity to sign the petition.  
Derek Compton

## SITUATION VACANT PART-TIME COUNTER ASSISTANT

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## Saturday Morning Football Club

Heighington Boys Football Club are starting a NEW SATURDAY MORNING CLUB.

Our Coaching Team are intent on developing the football skills of local 7/8 year olds and would like to expand children's knowledge of the football game. Our coaches all have Level 1 Coaching Certificates and have all been CRB checked. So if your child is in Years 2 or 3 at school and loves to kick a ball about come along and join in the fun. Just bring along Football Boots, Shin Pads and a Drink.

Training 9am - 10am, Heighington Parish Playing Fields Coach - Paul Soakell 0784 8932989 / 01325 320102

## XMAS FAIR AT AGNEW

Agnew Community Centre hold a Christmas Fair on Saturday 12th November from 10am to 2pm. New and Good as New Toys and gifts on sale. Come along and grab a bargain!.

if you want a table yourself to sell unwanted goods ring Margaret on 079100 58891. or Ron on 321504.

## AXFLOW OPENS NORTH EAST BASE



National pumps and systems distributor AxFlow Limited has opened a new service and maintenance facility in Newton Aycliffe.

Providing a much needed capability for pump users throughout the North East and Scottish Borders, AxFlow Durham marks an extension to the Company's existing service and maintenance operation in Huddersfield, which already handles business throughout the Midlands and North of England. AxFlow also has significant operational bases in London and Aberdeen.

Located in new premises in the Evans Business Centre on Aycliffe Business Park, AxFlow Durham is currently being fitted out with the requisite engineering elements required for repairing and servicing all makes and types of pumps. The plan is to collect pumps from customers for remedial work to be undertaken

at the plant, but where pumps cannot be removed from customers' premises, onsite work will be undertaken.

Announcing this new development, AxFlow Technical Support Manager Mark Redgrove said that the new 1000 sq. ft. facility can accommodate pumps weighing up to 500kg and will offer many of the maintenance services that the much larger Huddersfield Service Base provides. Facilities will include degreasing, shot blasting and a paint booth.

"Over the past two to three years we have experienced a considerable demand from all sectors of industry in the region for a localised, fast turn round pump maintenance service. By setting up AxFlow Durham with qualified pump engineering personnel, we are answering industry's needs," comments Mark Redgrove. "Where more complex procedures are required, or pumps exceed the weight restrictions, we shall continue to provide a full professional engineering service from Huddersfield."

Being the largest independent distributor of positive displacement pumps in the UK, AxFlow is committed to providing all sectors of industry with an extensive range professional maintenance services, including the supply and installation of mechanical seals, from its regional locations.

*Photo: David Mcteer, Service Sales Engineer (left) and Technical Support Manager Mark Redgrove (right) outside the new premises in Newton Aycliffe.*

## Halloween Fancy Dress Charity Party

Just Say Yes Charity Halloween Fancy Dress Party at Newton Aycliffe Working Mens Club on Saturday October 29th 2011 from 7pm till 11.30pm. Tickets £5 Adults £3 Children. Live Bands - Raffle - Auction.

For tickets or more information please contact 07738 259 220 or email: justsayyesfund@hotmail.co.uk, website: www.justsayyesfund.co.uk. All proceeds to the Just Say Yes charity to help Families of Children and Teenagers with Cancer.

## Don't Forget Who Was in Power During the Bank Crisis

Dear Sir,

I was sorry to hear that J.D.Clare had retired as he now has too much time on his hands to act as an apologist for New Labour, and the mess the last government left behind.

**The minimum wage.** As soon as the minimum wage was introduced it became the 'norm'. That is, many employers would not pay over the minimum and it was left to Taxpayers to 'top up' earnings via Tax Benefits; this at a time when economic immigration was unfettered (we never got to vote on this) and economic migrants were the only people who were attracted by the minimum wage. We have become a high tax, low wage economy, with the taxpayer subsidising the wages paid by employers. To my mind, Gordon Brown's Tax Benefit scheme was New Labour blatantly buying votes with our taxes.

**The Boundary Commission.** The Labour Government had plenty of time in office to make the changes to the boundaries that, all democratically minded people acknowledged, were unfairly stacked in the favour of New Labour. The Labour Party, when in government, chose to ignore this blatantly undemocratic situation.

**Elected Police Chiefs.** What is so wrong with a retired army Colonel standing for democratic election as a police chief? Are army Colonels only good for fighting Tony Blair's illegal wars? Given the current investigations into the behaviour of neighbouring police chiefs appointed during the last Labour Government (undemocratic political appointments?) perhaps now is the time for democratically elected police chiefs. Why is J.D.Clare so scared of democracy based on fair constituency boundaries?

**The Human Rights Act.** The first problem with the Human Rights Act is that it was foisted upon us by the non-elected European Commission, and we have been denied any right to object to this 'Evil Empire' (New Labour denied us the promised referendum; Ireland voted against and had to hold another vote). The second problem is that the Labour Government stood back and allowed judges to misinterpret the Human Rights Act such that the rights of the innocent vast majority were judged to be of less importance than the rights of the guilty majority. Let us not forget that Cherie Blair made an obscene amount of money promoting the Human Rights of guilty people over those of us innocents, and the Labour Government gave the guilty the right to smoke in public buildings (prisons and Parliament)), a right denied to the rest of us innocents. Not very democratic.

**The National Health Service.** Despite New Labour throwing money at the NHS they could not stop it killing hundreds of people due to hospital acquired infections. Also, the care of the old and infirm has been found to

verge on the criminal! The NHS however never seems to be short of cash to advertise (via private broadcasters) the New Labour anti-smoking ideology. (It will be fat people next). It is time that the NHS was drastically reformed and returned to its duty of properly looking after the sick, Wasteful levels of Labour appointed managers should be stripped out.

**Plutocracy.** The Coalition Government was democratically elected (despite item 2 above). After the last Labour Government's spending spree the only plutocrats left are the bankers and others in financial services that the Labour Government failed to properly regulate. Let us not forget that the Labour Government was in power during the banking crisis and oversaw the granting of obscene payments in banks that they had bought (bailed out) on our behalf.

**Education, Education.**

**Education.** One of Tony Blair's favourite chants. It cost us a fortune on PFI to build schools, not where they were needed, but where New Labour could buy votes.

Cllr Clare is a retired schoolmaster and should know that, despite New Labour bankrupting the country for Schools for the Future, the Coalition Government has had to borrow money to set up summer schools so that the pupils failed under New Labour can be taught basic numeracy and literacy. Perhaps, Cllr Clare could volunteer to assist in this remedial teaching, he has his index linked pension from what is clearly a failing profession.

I would therefore suggest he stops worrying about plutocracy, stops looking back on New Labour through rose coloured spectacles and instead concentrates on re-introducing true democracy.

Alastair. P. G. Welsh

## St. ANDREWS TINY CHURCH IS COMING SOON

On the 20th November at 3pm if you come along to St Andrew's Church you are sure to have a pleasant surprise. Many people tell us that church is boring but look back with great fondness at their time at Sunday School.

We hope to put the fun back into Sunday School by opening a Tiny Church in the New Year. As a taster to this we are hosting a fun hour packed with games and activities for children and their carers as a gentle introduction to Tiny Church starting in January in the Village Hall.

So don't miss out come along and enjoy the fun.

Further Information about this event and Tiny Church can be obtained by contacting Revd Julie Wing on 01325 320278

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2011

**Saturday 29th October - Night Fever at the 70's Disco**  
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet. £10.95 per person

**Sunday 30th October - Great North Air Ambulance Wedding Fair & Designer Dress Sale**  
Event begins at 10am, Fashion Show 11am - 12noon. View dresses 12 - 2pm, Auction 2pm - 4pm. A great opportunity to try before you buy and purchase on the day. Pre-book for a champagne afternoon tea and receive it at a discounted price of £18.95 per person.

**Friday 4th November - 70's/80's Night with Band**  
The ultimate Show. All the hits including Tragedy, Night Fever, You should be dancing. Evening includes two course buffet entertainment and disco. Arrive 7.00pm with Buffet served 7.30pm. £12.95 per person

**Saturday 5th November - Firework Extravaganza**  
Entrance 5.30pm, Fireworks 6.30pm.  
Adults £2.50 entry - Children free entry

**Friday 11th November - The Brainstormer Murders**  
*"Why are we here"*  
The ultimate in Murder Mystery entertainment, come and enjoy a thrilling evening of fun, intrigue and whodunnit. The evening will be a 60's theme with a three course dinner and 60's disco to finish. Arrive 7.00pm for dinner 7.30pm. £20.95 per person

**Saturday 12th November - The 80's Experience**  
*The best disco party ever.*  
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet. £10.95 per person

**Friday 18th November - Disco through the Decades**  
Come and enjoy a night of music from the 60's all the way through to the 90's. Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet. £10.95 per person

Sunday Lunch is served in the Boyne Suite accompanied by music from our resident pianist. 4 courses including coffee £18.95 per person

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## Ladies Get Together for Sweet Delight

Last year Newton Aycliffe and Heighington WI's joined forces to present, "An Evening of Sweet Delights". It was such a success that we decided to join forces again this year to repeat the winning formula.

On Friday evening, 14th October, we made our way to St. Clare's Church Hall, and were treated to a choice of leek and potato or love-apple soup with a roll and a glass of wine. Guests were then invited to choose three desserts from an incredible array. (This was perhaps the most difficult part of the evening for our guests.)

Nobody was counting, but there must have been over fifty different desserts, both hot and cold, so it was no easy task choosing just three. Very quickly though, the banoffi pies, lemon tarts, apple crumbles, ginger puddings and pavlovas etc were disappearing. Those with a particularly sweet tooth were able to buy portions of puddings to take home. There was a raffle and tombola, a quiz, and two WI members performed a short comedy sketch.

The whole evening was very enjoyable both for the WI ladies, who worked so hard to make everything go

with a swing, and for our guests. We would like to thank everybody for their support.

We must also give a special thank you to St. Clare's and to the Brownie Pack who not only vacated the hall early to enable us set everything up; they tolerated us sharing the kitchen for a while.

We are hoping to repeat the event next year so do look out for posters and information in the press. We recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment.

## Mayor's Charity Night Raised £544

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mary Dalton, held a Charity Cabaret Evening in Newton Aycliffe Workingmens Club on Friday, 14th October to help raise funds for her nominated charities during her year in office. Councillor Mrs. Dalton has jointly nominated the North East Army Benevolent Fund and Town Organisations as her charities during her year in office.

The evening was a huge success and an amount of £544.22 was raised which will be added to the total amount raised by the Mayor during her year. Cheques will be presented to her charities at the Annual Council Meeting to be held on the 9th May 2012. Councillor Mrs. Dalton would like to thank everyone who supported this event, especially the Cabaret Artistes and the Committee of the Workingmens Club for allowing us the use of their concert hall.

Once again, thank you to everyone who supported the event and made it such a huge success.

## Wing Walk Raised £2,875



Tesco Managers Martin Butcher and Paul Davies with Julie Watson

Julie Watson, Tesco's Dare Devil fundraiser completed a Wing Walk and raised £2,300 for charity. 33 members of staff travelled by bus to the airport to watch Julie become strapped to the wing and fly off into the sky.

Julie said she could not sleep for a few nights prior to the challenge and said she would not do it again! However she is willing to try anything and is asking

readers to come up with suggestions for her next fundraising event.

"May I thank our staff and customers for their generous support and the Rotary Club for helping with the collection. Also the British Legion for their generous donation" said Julie. All the proceeds are for the Alzheimer's Society and Tesco's Charity Trust will add a further 20% to the total amount collected.

## LESSONS IN GETTING A JOB

GAMP funding has been used to help year 11 pupils from Newton Aycliffe prepare for life after school.

A series of mock interviews are taking place at Greenfield Community and Arts College on Greenfield Way to give up to 180 pupils a taster of what it might be like to undergo a job interview. Durham Education Partnership is co-ordinating the activity with 10 to 12 volunteers from local businesses, public sector bodies or voluntary

organisations conducting job interviews.

Councillors Enid Paylor and Mike Dixon have granted £2,400 from their Neighbourhood Budgets which is being used to cover costs including administration, CRB checks and a useful booklet for pupils covering the dos and don'ts. Adam White, project development officer with GAMP, said: "Supporting the town's young people is a main aim for GAMP. We hope

this project will encourage young people to think about how they can further develop their career choices and employability skills." Councillors Paylor and Dixon joined assistant headteacher, Stuart Dixon, at the school on Monday October 17th for the first of the interviews

## PLANNING CONSENT SOUGHT FOR NEW POLICE HQ AT DURHAM

Durham Police Authority are seeking the go ahead to build a new headquarters fit for 21st century policing.

Full planning consent is being sought for a three-storey building at Aykley Heads, Durham.

Durham County Council is also being asked to give outline planning consent for housing on the site where the present police HQ is located.

If the go-ahead is given, it is hoped that building work will start in October next year on what is envisaged to be an 18-month contract. If it all goes to plan the new premises could be open as soon as April 2014.

In support and in advance of the planning consent, the proposed plans will go 'on the road' around the force area, for the benefit of interested members of the public as well as Durham Constabulary officers and staff.

One of the roadshows will be held on **Tuesday 25th October** at Newton Aycliffe Police Station on the Business Park from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

The new development is being designed with the highest 'green' credentials as well as creating a modern office environment for up to 480 officers and staff.

The present headquarters dates back to 1969 when the first phase was opened by former Prime Minister Jim Callaghan, who was then Secretary of State.

It is no longer considered fit for purpose, with extremely high running and maintenance costs, coupled with the fact it does not lend itself to modern working conditions.

The new building will represent a considerable saving to the Police Authority, at a time when every penny spent is being scrutinised.

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## COMEDY NIGHT AT XCEL

After a successful visit last October, we are delighted to welcome Mark Ritchie back to the Xcel Centre to perform his one-man show 'Could Do Better' on Sunday 30th October.

This is another opportunity to invite friends, enjoy a great night of entertainment and be challenged about life and how you live, all with a dose of Mark's unique humour. This event is for people of all ages, PLUS a full kids programme for those aged 3-11yrs will be available on the night at no additional charge.

Ticket Prices are £5 (£3 concessions for students & over 65's). The event starts at 6pm. Doors open at 5.30pm. Tickets from the Xcel Centre or online at www.eventelephant.com/coulddobetter

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# Furniture Scheme Offers Improved Opening Hours

As the negative effects of the current economic climate start to take effect the Directors and Trustees of the County Durham Furniture Help Scheme have been considering ways of helping local communities and families that are coming under increasing financial pressure. Chris Palmer the Managing Director of the major furniture and domestic goods charity based at Chilton has announced a major change to the trading hours that the charity is open and available to the general public.

The CDFHS is committed to helping the local communities as much as possible and aims to guarantee to be the cheapest source locally for key household and domestic goods.

Said Chris Palmer "We realise how difficult life now is and with costs rising for food and fuel we have to do our bit to help families acquire key household goods that would otherwise be unaffordable".

"Our service goes two ways and we are still working at offering an efficient and cost effective free collection service for bulky household goods that would otherwise make its way to landfill. Be it your old cooker, fridge or settees to miscellaneous "bric a brac" or clothes ring our contact centre and we will aim to collect directly from you as soon as we can."

Ray Brown, Logistics Director, said "Over the summer the team at CDFHS



has been working hard at improving our service to the surrounding areas. We have been carrying out additional training and getting new staff in to post to ensure we offer as efficient a service as possible for anything from a bag of old clothes to an entire house clearance". CDFHS has been operating for more than forty years and now has three showrooms at Chilton which are entirely self-funded. Diane Brown, Treasurer, said "We see disappointingly many external companies that are commercial operations, not even charities offering collections of household goods or clothes; they make a profit and are often not even registered charities. The CDFHS by comparison ploughs any revenue made 100% into covering the costs of running our service".

We also offer significant volunteering opportunities in our "Frontline" Charity in various disciplines complete with training and support we also offer that

following volunteering with serious help in getting in to or back in to the world of work. Our vans are logoed and our drivers carry photo identification to eliminate any doubt as to our status. Please call us now on 01388 721509. We are aiming at "100% recycling of every single item we collect" said Chris Palmer.

Our new hours of opening are going to be: Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm, Fridays 10am to 5pm, Saturdays 10am to 2pm (Prompt)

# Forget Wind Power Use Solar Energy

Dear Sir,

All of the furore over the wind farm but I have not seen anyone put forward the option of Solar Panels.

They do what it says: Generate electric in daylight. Go dormant in the dark Do NOT draw power from the Grid when they are dormant. Require little maintenance. Can be sited across the whole Isles area and do not need to be visible from a distance - indeed they can be quite low and thus not a blot on the landscape.

They do not make a noise like wind Turbines and are no danger to wildlife.

Surely we should be pushing this as an alternative. We can go Green, no eyesore and don't draw power from the mains.

It's a no-brainer, but of course won't happen because the Government subsidies for the Wind Turbines is higher and EON will plug for this.

It's not about saving energy it's about PROFIT and always will be!

I have solar panels.

Wilf Emmerson

Lowther Drive

# GAMP CASH TOWARDS FOOTBALL CLUB'S NEW CABIN

Newton Aycliffe chairman Gary Farley is pictured enjoying a cuppa with GAMP support officer Adam White in the club's swanky new hospitality cabin.

Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership has supported a number of new projects at Moore Lane Park at Aycliffe Sports Club in recent months.

Aycliffe's media manager Martin Walker made an initial bid for £2,000 from GAMP's small grants scheme to help fund a new hospitality cabin, which cost more than £4,000 to purchase and install.

Walker then submitted another successful bid of £4,000 to Cllrs John Moran and Sarah Iveson from their joint Neighbourhood Budget allocation, which went towards brand new box goals, new flooring for the dugout areas, seating for the new cabin, matchballs for the season and a new flagpole.

The total sum of £6,000 has enabled the club to carry out much-needed work at the ground without financial burden. Farley said: "Without GAMP's financial support we wouldn't have been able to make the improvements we wanted to make."

"Some of the work was necessary and some of it, such as the flagpole, is just a nice touch which adds a



## FIXTURES

Saturday 22nd October: Penrith (H) 3pm  
Saturday 29th October: West Auckland Town (A) 3pm  
Saturday 5th November: Whitley Bay (H) 3pm  
Saturday 12th November: Guisborough Town (A) 3pm  
Saturday 19th November: Tow Law Town (H) 3pm  
Saturday 26th November: Spennymoor (A) 3pm  
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

little extra character to the ground.

"It's certainly very much appreciated, and credit goes to Martin Walker for managing and applying for both grant applications."

Meanwhile, Aycliffe registered their first 0-0 in the league for over 16 months with this stalemate at second-placed Dunston last Saturday.

It could have been much more for Allan Oliver's Newtonians, had Josh Gray converted a 37th-minute penalty awarded to the visitors for a blatant hand ball.

Elliot Gardner smashed the crossbar prior to Gray's misdeemeanour while Dale Jardine should have done better when sent clear late

on.

At the other end, the dependable Scott Pocklington made two fantastic stops, denying both Terry Galbraith and Andy Bulford either side of the interval to preserve parity.

But it should be noted Aycliffe managed to earn the well-deserved point without a host of key players, with skipper Sean Tarling on holiday and injuries to Ben Wood, Dan Mellanby, Steve Gibson and Glen Robson. Aycliffe host Penrith at Moore Lane this weekend, followed by the short trip to West Auckland next Saturday and then the visit of FA Vase legends Whitley Bay in a fortnight, which promises to bring a healthy crowd to Moore Lane.

# Half Term Activities at Greenfield

As part of The Face Off Festival, Greenfield Community & Arts Centre have organised a half term week of interactive arts and craft activities aimed at young children and their families.

On Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th October 'Let's Face It': your chance to get messy and create a 3D portrait. (under 8's must be accompanied by an adult) 'Family Face Painting' on Wednesday 26th October: an opportunity to be creative and learn new skills. On Thursday 27th 'Family Feed Your Face', come along and learn new recipes to cook and share

with your family and friends. To end the week meet the crew that created the new film about Newton Aycliffe and watch the premiere.

All activities are free except for the cooking sessions where there will be a fee of £7.50 per family (1 adult 2 children) and £1.50 extra per person.

For more information or to book a place please contact Greenfield Community & Arts Centre

Opening times: Monday-Thursday 10am to 9pm Friday 10am-4pm Tel: 379 048 or email info@greenfield-arts.co.uk - www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

# Depressing Town Centre

Dear Sir,

Visiting the town centre I noticed how filthy it looked. Litter bins were full and brimming over and as it was windy it was being blown everywhere. I walked to Tesco's and it was the same there!

With broken pavement slabs, overhanging trees it was like living in a ghetto! Where is Aldi and the lovely town centre we were promised years ago?

I remember the lovely picture postcard town centre we once had, when

it was a pleasure to walk through, but now I am ashamed of it!

You cannot blame the recession as this has been going on for years. We pay the highest Council Tax yet live in this poor environment.

No one complains as it does no good. A town of our size should be booming, but all we have is a poor town centre which is so depressing. Why can't we attract Morrisons and other big businesses?

Mrs S. Thompson

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# GENTLEMAN'S EVENING AT SPORTS CLUB

Newton Aycliffe Rugby Club are hosting a Gentleman's Evening to raise club funds later this month. The event, which will no doubt prove popular, will be held at Aycliffe Sports Club on Saturday 29th October,

starting at 7pm.

A range of exotic entertainment will be on show during the evening, with a host of top prizes up for grabs in a raffle.

Rugby coach Bob Malvern (pictured) is particularly looking forward to the

night.

"It should be a cracker!" said Malvern. "Some of the entertainment will no doubt be a little eye-opening, but I wouldn't miss it for the world. It will hopefully prove to be a successful fundraising

event for the rugby club so all support for it is gratefully received."

Tickets are priced just £7 each, and are available from Sam Daltry on 07825 346536 or email [sdaltry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sdaltry@hotmail.co.uk), on a first-come-first-served basis.

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# AUTUMN FUN WITH CONKERS & THE POND

Great Aycliffe Town  
Council have organised 3  
free public events over the  
October half term to keep

children entertained over  
the break.

On 24th October between  
10am- 12 noon there will  
be a pond dipping session at  
Aycliffe Nature Park where  
families are invited to come  
along and see what they can  
find in the pond at the park.  
This will be the last chance  
this year to see what you  
can find before the weather  
starts to change and most of  
the water life will become  
dormant over the winter  
months.

Nets and trays will be  
provided but participants  
are invited to bring along  
their own nets and buckets  
if they have them along  
with wellies which are a  
must for this activity. Meet  
at the entrance to the Nature  
Park at Travellers Green.  
You can also try your luck  
at the most traditional of  
autumn activities when  
Moore Lane Eco Centre  
will host a Conker Contest  
on Wednesday 26th  
October at 2pm - 3.30pm.  
All Conkers will be  
provided and when you will

have the opportunity to be  
crowned Aycliffe Conker  
Champion of 2011.

On Thursday 27th October  
at 2pm Moore Lane Eco  
Centre will be hosting a  
Halloween special.  
This will be your chance  
to prepare for the spooky  
evening by making your  
own natural broom stick  
and other craft activities.  
For more information  
please contact Great  
Aycliffe Town Council's  
Environment Officer on  
0777 9090 842 or e-mail  
him at [Steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:Steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

# ZUMBA & FITNESS CHARITY NIGHT

ADA Teachers Emma and  
Anthony Cox are organising  
a Zumba Fitness and Circuit  
Training Charity Night on  
Monday 7th November  
2011 to raise money for the  
'Just Say Yes' Fund.

Emma and Anthony sadly  
lost their friend Mark  
Bulman, to cancer last year  
at the age of 21. A non-profit  
charity has been set up in  
Mark's name to raise money  
for young adults at the RVI  
Newcastle and Freeman  
hospitals where treatment is  
no longer curative. They are  
given a cash gift to spend as  
they wish, helping to bring  
a little happiness and create  
memories for family and  
friends.

Their Zumba Fitness and  
Circuit Training classes will  
run as normal on this night  
and all of the money taken  
for the two classes will go to  
the fund.

Children and Adults are  
welcome to come along  
(even if you've never done  
Zumba or Circuit before),  
pay the £3.50 and enjoy the  
class whilst raising money  
for a very good cause.

If you would like to give  
a bigger donation to the  
charity this would be very  
much appreciated! So please  
come along to support our  
Charity Night on Monday  
7th November at the  
Bethany Centre (Zumba  
6.30-7.30pm & Circuit  
8-9pm). Hope to see lots of  
you there!!!

## HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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We like to feature good  
news and interesting  
items on achievements  
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Philippa. and her guest Trefor Jones. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the Xcel Centre or online at [www.eventelephant.com/philippahannaatxcel](http://www.eventelephant.com/philippahannaatxcel)  
Philippa Hanna is one of the UK's brightest talents. Her songs and stories are captivating audiences around the globe. Taking in over 100 performances each year since the launch of Watching Me in 2007 its clear that Philippa is following in the footsteps of her bassist brother Stuart Zender (Jamiroquai, Mark Ronson) by making her mark in the music industry. Philippa visited Haiti in 2009 with international

children's charity 'Compassion' and helped recruit hundreds of sponsors for the charity's work at her concerts since the launch of her 2nd album Taste. Philippa spent much of her time at the end of 2010 in Hong Kong working as a part of the development team for Asia's premier girlband Blush. The televised project, put together by producer Eliot Kennedy (Bryan Adams, Spice Girls) and Jon Niermann (former President of Walt Disney Asia-Pacific) has generated huge global interest.

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# Council's Commemorative Gift Help for Town Centres



Last week our Town Mayor, Mary Dalton, presented a framed record of photographs of the Freedom Parade granted to Aycliffe's 102 Battalion REME in June this year. Major Chris Prince (right) the Officer Commanding at Aycliffe, received the gift and the presentation was attended by The Commanding Officer of the Battalion Lt. Col Ian Adkins.

New 21st Century Town Centres Report explains practical steps to help town centres to survive and to thrive

The New report offers a new vision for town centres and explains 5 key practical steps to turn vision to reality

It outlines NEW approaches to revitalising town centres. Town centres and high streets are under enormous strain. Household spending is falling, shops are closing and public spending is being squeezed. If our town centres are to survive and thrive again, we need to think more radically and more intelligently about their future.

The government has commissioned Mary Portas to conduct a review of the UK's high streets. Action for Market Towns (AMT) launched a new 21st Century Town Centres

report, summarizing a new vision and outlining some steps we can take to turn it into reality. The report is based on AMT's work in developing policy and devising practical solutions in towns across the UK. The report is available at [www.towns.org.uk](http://www.towns.org.uk) from Thursday 13th October. Key elements of the report – 'the vision' and 'making it happen' – practical steps to turn the vision to reality for towns' are summarized below.

AMT's Policy Manager, Alison Eardley, said: "What the future holds for our town centres is a concern shared by the majority of our members especially in

light of the recent recession and the continuing strain on consumer spending.

"Action for Market Towns has long championed the important multi-faceted role that the town centre plays and has been working with communities on a wide range of initiatives such as benchmarking, tourism development, retail competitiveness and accessibility.

"We encourage Mary Portas, in her review into the UK's high street, not only to improve the opportunities available to the independent retailer but also to explore the wider role of the town centre as a focal point for neighbourhoods and social activity.

"Our new report suggests tried and tested practical ways of encouraging people back into the town centre with innovative solutions and promoting a sustainable future for the centres that make our many small towns so distinctive."

## Thank You

**DENISE HOWSON** Thank you to all my relatives and friends for the lovely cards, flowers and gifts on my 50th birthday and for helping me celebrate my very BIG birthday xxx

**WHILE** shopping in Tesco on 15th October. I felt unwell, but the staff who came to me were marvellous. Thank you Tesco Staff

**THANK YOU** to everyone that gave my Daughter and her Husband a fantastic day on 15th October 2011 on their wedding day. Pauline and Derek Bagnall

## Birthday Remembrance

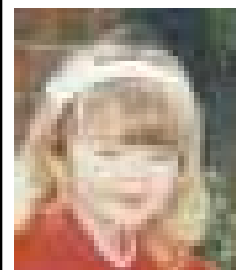
**TED COURTLEY** 27th October. Birthday memories of a wonderful husband. From your loving Wife Doreen

**TED COURTLEY** 27th October. Birthday memories of a very special Grandad and Great Grandad. Sadly Missed. Love from Keith, Debbie, Lauren and Thomas xx

**ELLIOTT Christopher James.** 25th October. To my friend Chris on his birthday. You are thought of every day, not just on your birthday. Love, Betty

## Congratulations

### Isla Sproat



**Happy 18th Birthday**  
19th October 2011  
Love from Mum, Dad and all the family

### Susan Addison

**Happy 60th Birthday**



**Happy 60th Birthday**  
All my love, Ronnie xx  
Lots of love, Rachel,  
Gary, Neil and Jill xxx  
Love and hugs, Ava xxx

**OLIVIA KENT** Have a lovely 5th birthday. Lots of love, Grandma and Grandad xxx

**JAKE CANE** Have a great 15th birthday. Lots of love, Grandma and Grandad xxx

**ANDREW BLACKBURN** Happy 3rd Anniversary. Love you loads and loads Babe. Love always, Samantha xxx

**CONGRATULATIONS** Wendy Bolton on the safe arrival of your Son "Reuben Thomas James". Love and best wishes to you both. Mam, Dad and all the family

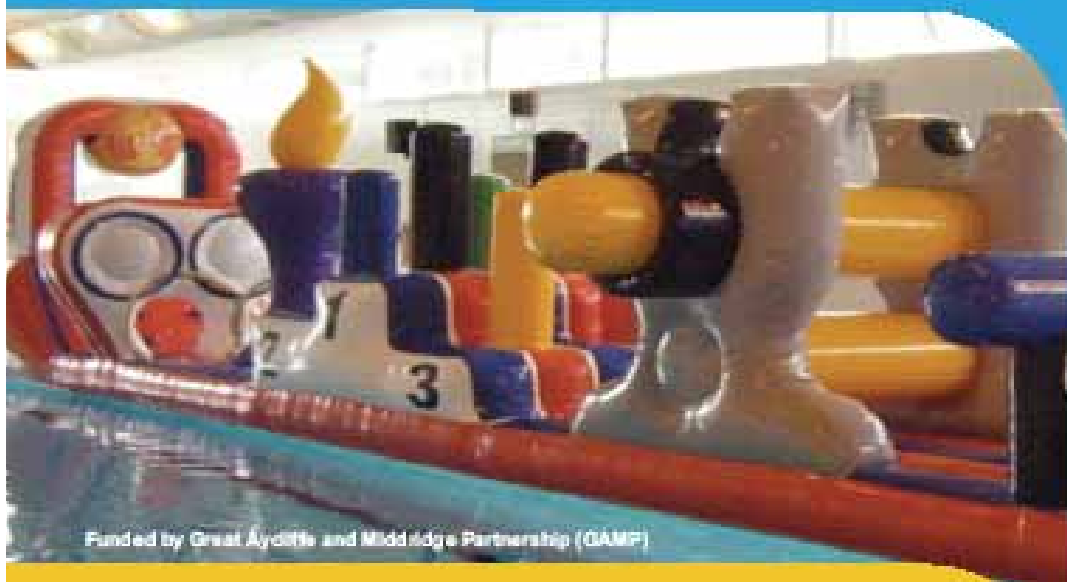
**STEPHEN SMITH** Happy 40th birthday. Love from Kathleen, George and Jamie



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## In Memoriam

### Ralph McNeillie

24th October 2009

Theres a bridge of golden memories from here to heaven above. It keeps us very close to you, it's called the bridge of love. Never forgotten. Love from All the family xxx

### Ralph McNeillie

24th October 2009

*In loving memory of a Dear Husband*

When asked if I am lonely, I always answer no. He is always there beside me, everywhere I go. His clothes are in the wardrobe, I see them every day. So how can I be lonely when I talk to him every day. Your loving Wife, Hazel xxx

**KENNETH BECK SMITH.** In loving memory of Kenneth Beck Smith, gone but not forgotten. Wife Marjorie Smith, Carolyn, Ben and Bronya xxx

**HARRIET BRUMWELL** Died 18th October 1993. Always remembered and forever loved. God bless. Jeannette, Owen and Carl

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# Aycliffe Firm Helps Football Academy

YOUNG soccer stars will be hoping to demolish the opposition this season thanks to brand new kit sponsored by a North-East firm. The lucky 40 boys and girls selected for a unique football academy will be given extra power with shirts sporting the moniker Tyne Tees Demolition, as well as shorts, jumpers, rain jackets and socks, worth £150 per student.

Based at nearby Aycliffe Business Park, the firm specialises in deconstruction but will be helping Greenfield Community College-based Martin Gray's Football Academy, build on its success.

Tyne Tees Demolition is awaiting news after being nominated for the World Demolition Awards, due to be announced in Holland next month. They were selected for their work removing seven redundant bridges over the A1, where it is currently being widened in North Yorkshire.

"We may have knocked them down in North Yorkshire but this sponsorship deal is about building bridges with the community," said managing director David Gauja. My co-director Andrew Verity knows Martin and we were only too pleased to help provide the youngsters with their kit."

The Martin Gray Football Academy is a pioneering initiative to engage young people in their studies using the power of the game. Greenfield College took 200 students through the rigors of five trials, selecting 29 boys and 11 girls. On top of their normal 25 hours of school work, they get an additional two hours of education and are then coached by Martin, a former Sunderland AFC footballer, his colleague Brian Atkinson, who played centre mid-field for Sunderland in the 1992 FA Cup final and their coaching staff. Students get the chance to



*Pulling power, assistant head teacher at Greenfield Community College Stuart Dixon, left, Tyne Tees Demolition managing director David Gauja and footballer Martin Gray, with academy students in their new kit*

train professionally and increase the opportunities of being scouted by clubs. They also receive expert tuition on nutrition and have access to a professional sports physiotherapist to help with any injuries. Martin said: "We are really grateful to Tyne Tees Demolition for their support, which is absolutely fabulous. The academy works really well and is a great opportunity for all concerned."

Assistant head teacher at Greenfield Community College Stuart Dixon said: "We wanted something students could strive to achieve, to raise attainment and grades, not just in the academy but across the whole school. The effect has been unbelievable."

"We also work with ten feeder primary schools and have had meetings with another five schools interested in the project. It's powerful, it's innovative and it balances nicely with the school's other specialisms of science and the arts." Martin and his team currently offer enrichment programmes to 17 local schools. Greenfield Community College is the only school in the country

currently running its own academy with Martin at the professional football helm.

## New Free Exercise Class at PCP



A new exercise class to help people improve their health and wellbeing is being offered free at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe. Tone and Stretch 40+ takes place on Mondays 9.30 – 10.30am, it's a mix of circuits and floor exercises designed for the over 40s to create overall tone and fitness. Other weekly classes are also available at just £3.50 including Boxercise on Mondays and Wednesdays

5.30 – 6.30pm which combines boxing moves with aerobics to achieve better body tone and fitness and Tai Chi on Fridays 12.15 – 1.15pm, a series of slow controlled, movements which develops strength, balance and calm. Contact the Pioneering Care Centre for further details on classes and courses available tel: 321234, email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net visit www.pcp.uk.net. or pop in and pick up a What's On leaflet.

## Super Derby Sunday at Sports Club

Football fans will be able to enjoy a double-bill of derbies at Aycliffe Sports Club this weekend. Manchester United face Manchester City in one of the biggest Premier League derbies of the season at Old Trafford on Sunday (2pm). Top flight new boys QPR then host Chelsea in a London derby at Loftus Road (4pm).

Both games are on Sky Sports 1 and Sky Sports HD, which are available in Aycliffe Sports Club.

"It's another mouth-watering weekend of football action," said club secretary Pat Flynn.

"The Manchester derby is one of the biggest games in the domestic football calendar and QPR's game with Chelsea should be interesting and, as usual, the best place to watch the footy is in the Sports Club!"

With price-friendly beers and lagers and newly-refurbished bars, Aycliffe Sports Club is one of the town's best venues to watch sport.

Bar prices include Carling just £2.25, Worthy Creamflow £2.00.

Kopparberg £2.75, Magners £2.55 and Guinness £2.45. The Sports Club's Moore Lane Park will host Aycliffe's Northern League tie at home to Penrith on Saturday (3pm). The game is sandwiched by Wolves v Swansea in the Premier League at 12.45pm and a Championship match between promotion-chasing Reading and Southampton at 5.20pm.

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