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AS SIMPLE AS ABC

Council Vote for Aycliffe/Billingham Constituency

Our Town Council has reviewed and revised its position on the new Parliamentary boundaries proposed by the Government Commission. They now unanimously oppose any scheme which splits our community into two constituencies.

In a forthright presentation last Wednesday, Deputy Leader John Clare received the full support of the Council at an Extraordinary Meeting called to discuss the controversial plans to divide Newton Aycliffe.

John Clare gave compelling reasons to keep Great Aycliffe united in a new constituency which brought in Billingham, Eaglescliffe and Middleton St. George, rejecting our M.P.'s proposal which included Yarm, but lost parts of western Aycliffe.

The Town Council have now submitted their proposal to the Boundary Commission backed unanimously by all parties. Great Aycliffe Residents

Association support the Town Council in this bid which keeps Great Aycliffe united. They also support the suggestion that Aycliffe or Great Aycliffe be part of the new name, viz: Aycliffe & Billingham Constituency.

Newton News contacted

our MP Phil Wilson for his reaction and he said: 'When the final Boundary Commission report returns to parliament I will be voting against it. Like the majority of people in Newton Aycliffe I want the whole of the town to remain

continued on Page 3

A GREAT START FOR TOWN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

If you receive your Newton News in time, do go down to the Xcel Centre on Sunday 11th December for the Community Christmas Concert at 2pm led by our Town Band.

ADMISSION IS FREE!
Take the family and join in singing your favourite Christmas Carols and songs. Listen and be

uplifted by schoolchildren and choristers performing for your enjoyment. Santa will be making a visit on this special occasion when the community comes together to get the Christmas festivities off to a great start. Come along and spend 90 minutes with townsfolk in celebrating Christmas in true community spirit.

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XMAS PARTY WITH SANTA

It's Party Time and Santa is coming along too! This is a date not to be missed.

Why not take a couple of hours out of your busy schedule and bring the kids to the Christmas Party at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex from 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Christmas Eve? We will be making marshmallow snowmen and Christmas placemats. Santa will call in to see our handiwork, and a party tea is provided, all for just £4.00 per child.

(Parent/s must stay in the building).

You can even watch all Santa's helpers leaving the Complex to tour the streets of Great Aycliffe.

Hall Garth Staff Service Awards



The Mayor Mary Dalton, accompanied by her consort Lynne, presented "Long Service Awards" to staff at the Hall Garth Hotel recently. Pam Mooney the new General Manager said it was a lovely day for those receiving awards and gifts who had given great service over the years bringing the hotel's food, service and accommodation standards to a very high level.

Pam thanked temporary manager John O'Reilly and said she was looking forward to working with all the staff to take the hotel to the next level.

Music Junkies at "The Horse"

North East Music Junkies December's monthly band night saw 'Moist' play a Brilliant set of original material and covers. Alex the lead singer of Moist has a fantastic voice reminding me of Tom Clarke from The Enemy and the lead singer of Reef.

The band had great energy and looked like they loved being up performing, with great guitar and drum playing being the foundations of the performance.

The lads threw in a few surprises, with a great solo saxophone moment as well as improvised percussion on a pan! The band who only got together in March have not yet recorded anything to put up on soundcloud or

facebook, but when they do I will let you know because these guys are definitely worth a listen!

Check out their facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/MoistUK?sk=info>

We would like to thank Moist for joining us for another great night of music and The Iron Horse for letting us host the night at their Pub. The Music Pod helped us get Moist to play and provided the pa system.

We hold a Charity night on 28th Dec at The Iron Horse. All funds raised will be split between Help For Heroes and The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. Check it out here: <http://www.facebook.com/events/304402572918409>

Village News

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Be sure to call in at Aycliffe Village hall on Saturday, December 10th, to meet Santa in his grotto. The Christmas breakfast club will be open from 9am to midday and will be offering bacon, egg and sausage butties, as well as lots of festive food and fun. The cost for the grotto is £2.50 per child. For more details, email aycliffevillage@btinternet.com.

TREASURE HUNT

After the Christmas club, Andrew Hindle, a student at QE Sixth Form College, has organised a treasure hunt around the village. Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for children. Andrew is raising funds to go to Botswana with the college in 2013 to help renovate a school.

Desperately Seeking Santa!

Are you available on Christmas Eve 3pm – 8.30pm? Would you like to be one of the Santas that tour the streets of Great Aycliffe? It really is a wonderful experience. If you wish to volunteer please contact Marilyn on 01325 300600

Newton Aycliffe W.M.C. Ltd.

Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe

We wish to inform residents of Newton Aycliffe the surrounding area that unless they are paid up members of this club or are paid members of an associate club, you will not be allowed admission to Newton Aycliffe W.M.C. at any time.

There are no exceptions.

By Instruction of the Committee.

An Evening of Clairvoyance

at the

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Saturday 10th December - "1 0 1"

We are pleased to welcome back one of the Turbini's favourite bands, who play a great mix of modern and classic rock. Tracks covered by Led Zeppelin, Killers, AC/DC, Kings of Leon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, KISS, Chicks, Nervosa, Razorlight, Pink Floyd, Green Day.

Davy's rock page review: "All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to have a good time with a good mix of older rock 101 deliver."

Saturday 17th December - "THIS MACHINE"

"Well, I don't know what to say, apart from... THIS MACHINE were absolutely amazing last night, one of the best... especially when the guitarists were on the tables and bar, haha! Every song was awesome, perfect sound and just all round excellence. Also it was the best atmosphere I've ever seen, everyone was having fun." - GIG PIT REVIEW

One of the most entertaining bands on the circuit, music by Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Bon Jovi, Guns N' Roses, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Billy Idol, Thin Lizzy.

www.alanweb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Saturday 24th December - "F.M." the Xmas Party

Davy's Rock Page Review: "Was this our best mid week pub gig ever? Probably! What can you say about FM, this was rock and metal utopia, a classic journey through the rock and roll hall of fame. They did the lot, Kaiser Chiefs, Foo Fighters, Sabbath, AC/DC, Zep and no real cheese, OK, they did 'Whisky Is the Jar', but hey! FM put a great amount of effort into this gig, sometimes midweek gigs just don't seem to have the same WOW or OOMPH

The atmosphere was great as was the music, a superb night. What is particularly pleasing is that FM don't always take the easy option, i.e. instead of sticking to Sweet Child Of Mine, they did Welcome to The Jungle, different GNR cover that takes a little more effort vocally.

How long have FM been around now? Many a year and on this performance many a year to come. Thanks lads you were awesome

www.offermn.co.uk

For more information on bands go to www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Artist in Residence at Greenfield College



Steve Sproates is Artist in Residence at Greenfield an Arts and Science College. Steve obtained a BA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths' College, London and MA in Art & Design in Context at Sunderland University. He explores scientific concepts within his work in particular spatial relationships using geometry and constructions that are mathematically and intuitively generated seeking to explore elegance, symmetry and beauty. Steve is currently working in the Design and Technology department with an innovative team of teachers on a series of artworks that explore design within their geometric shapes.

Steve uses Greenfield's laser cutter machine to cut precision geometric shapes needed to build his designs. Steve explains, "the Laser cutting machine demonstrates the versatility of modern technology." The range of dynamic shapes used to construct the Logo will now be used to mount images of the students D&T projects.

This creative collaboration has brought exciting opportunities to the school and has strengthened links with artists and partnerships with organisations such as Durham University. Greenfield are very excited about future developments with Steve.

Woodham Golf Club

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

from 7.30pm to 1.00am

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THE IRON HORSE

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"NEUTRONS"

Friday 16th December 2011

(doors open at 7.00pm)

Childrens Party with Santa £1 entry

Sunday 18th December from 12noon-2pm

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CHRISTMAS DAY MENU £35.00 per person

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XMAS COFFEE MORNING

St. Clare's Church will hold a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th December from 10am - 12 noon. Christmas Festive stalls, Cake stalls, Bottle Stall, Raffle, Tombola with Refreshments on sale. Entertainment provided by John Melvin's Music Group. Come along join the fun and get that Christmas feeling!

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Portable Picnic Tables for Disabled People Visiting Park



Readers may remember the Town Council refusing a resident permission to donate a picnic table for the use of a group of disabled people who visit West Park Lake for their lunch.

Former Town Mayor, Maud Gray, made the first request for picnic tables for this purpose, and money was obtained from the AAP, but when the Town Council placed them in a



totally inappropriate place for disabled people Maud offered to buy one for their specific use so they were not walking too far from their bus.

After receiving the refusal Newton News suggested a solution - portable picnic tables carried in the bus. We are now pleased to report the first two have been donated by Millie and Brian Duffin and Counc. George Robert Gray with the promise of another being purchased by Maud Gray.

The Innovations group were delighted with the picnic tables and used them this week, thanking Millie for her kindness and presenting her with a bouquet.

Parliamentary Boundary Proposals

continued from Page 1

together.

The way in which the government wants to gerrymander parliament by forcing constituencies to fit an electoral quota rather than a community means that communities will be split.

For example Ferryhill Station could end up in Bishop Auckland and Ferryhill in Durham City! Yarm being part of Sedgefield does not make any rhyme or reason. I think the people of Yarm would agree with that, but because of the electoral quota rule it may well have to stay with Sedgefield.

None of this is satisfactory. That is why I will be voting against the Boundary Commission's proposals when they return to parliament. I have raised this problem with The Newton News in the past and have urged people to write to the Boundary Commission with their views.'

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Keeping Warm & Healthy

As the winter months start to set in, and it gets colder, it is important to start thinking about how you are going to keep warm and healthy at home.

The cold can negatively affect your health in a number of ways. It can increase the risk of having a stroke or a heart attack, as well as worsening the symptoms of respiratory conditions like COPD and asthma. It can also make joint pains and skin conditions more difficult to cope with.

County Durham Healthy Homes Partnership (CDHHP) was set up to tackle this! The partnership is made up of a number of organisations, including: NHS County Durham, the Energy Saving Trust, Durham County Council, Welfare Rights, Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue, Age Concern, and the Durham Dales GP Led Commissioning Consortium.

We offer energy saving advice, information on heating and insulation schemes available in your area, a fire safety check, a benefit check, and referral onto any other relevant schemes or services.

We have already helped 40 people in Newton Aycliffe through this scheme. We received a card from a local lady who said: "I would like to thank you very much for all your kindness. I can now relax in the warmth of my home. No more need to put the oven on to keep warm, no need to put the kettle on for dishes, hot water bottles, or to wash myself."

Our aim is to improve people's health and wellbeing through helping them to live in a warmer home. To be referred to us, ask your GP, nurse or social care worker to fill in a referral card. Alternatively, you can phone the Energy Saving Trust advice line on 0800 512 012.

Festive Music at Woodham



Students from Woodham Community Technology College entertained a full house at their annual Christmas Music Concert. The performances, last Wednesday, involved over fifty students from Year 7 through to 11. Ensembles included Woodham Samba Band, Instrumental Group, Woodham Sound, Vocal Group and a selection of small groups and soloists. The Aycliffe District Wind Band also performed, featuring students from local

primary and secondary schools.

Christmas is a very busy time for the department as students prepare to perform in a variety of venues within the community. Students have entertained shoppers at the Christmas Fayre at the Work Place and are soon to perform at Defoe Court Nursing Home.

Their final performance will take place this Sunday at the Aycliffe Community Christmas Concert at the Excel Centre.

POPPY APPEAL COLLECTION OF OVER £1,000

On Saturday 12th November George Shotton and John Walker (ex RAF) collected for the Poppy Appeal in Tesco's.

They collected £1,037.40p from customers and thought this was unbelievably generous!

"It is the largest amount we have ever collected and we cannot thank you enough - you really honoured our heroes," said George and John.

They also wish to thank the management and staff of Tesco's for their help and co-operation to make this wonderful amount possible.

Residents Meet

Linden Place Residents Association meet at Sure Start, Stephenson Way School at 6pm on Tuesday 13th December 2011. Followed by refreshments. All residents welcome

POLICE ARREST LOCAL LOAN SHARK

A 52 year old man has been arrested on suspicion of illegal money lending, possession of drugs and money laundering following an operation by the England Illegal Money Lending Team in the Bishop Auckland area of County Durham this week.

The Team, working in partnership with Durham County Council executed

a warrant at a residential property seizing cash and documentation. The suspect is currently in custody being questioned by officers from the Team.

Durham County Council's Head of environment, health and consumer protection, Joanne Waller, said: "The council is pleased to be working with partners on such an important campaign, which I hope will save many people the pain and anxiety which can be caused by falling victim to loan sharks. Much of the information which helps campaigns like this one by the illegal money lending team comes from the public and I would like to thank residents in advance for their support."

Nationally the Stop Loan Shark Project has secured over 190 prosecutions for illegal money lending and related activity, leading to 117 years worth of custodial sentences. They have written

off almost £40 million worth of illegal debt and helped over 16,000 victims.

To report a loan shark:

Call the 24/7 confidential hotline 0300 555 2222

Text 'loan shark + your message' to 60003

E-mail reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

Log-on to www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.co.uk/stoploansharksproject

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Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe Christmas Santa Route



SANTA WILL BE VISITING THESE AREAS
(Weather conditions permitting)

RAISING FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOOD HAMPER FOR NEEDY FAMILIES IN OUR AREA AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Monday 12th December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Heighington, Twinsburn Road Areas, Bay Horse and George & Dragon
Tuesday 13th December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Woodham, Pemberton Road and Closes
Wednesday 14th December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Cobblers Hall, Rapemow Way and Closes
Thursday 15th December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Dak Tree, Greathead, Mellandby Crescent Areas
Monday 19th December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Horncliffe, Eskdale, Whinlatter, Langdale, Kirkstone, Silverdale, Howister.
Tuesday 20th December	5.30 - 7.30pm	School Aycliffe, The Chestnuts
Wednesday 21st December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Bluebell Way, All Estates
Thursday 22nd December	5.30 - 7.30pm	Silkin Way/Westmorland Way Areas

PWS Support Toy Appeal

Aycliffe based PWS Distributors are delighted to support Star Radio's Christmas Toy appeal. Second Nature, PWS award-winning kitchen brand is partnering the Co Durham based radio station's project to help ensure as many of the disadvantaged children in the North East area receive a present this Christmas.

Listeners are encouraged to buy an additional present and take it to one of the station's drop off points. Just before Christmas Eve, in association with Social Services and local charities the presents will be distributed.

Second Nature are the key supporter of the appeal and the staff at PWS' headquarters are working hard behind the scenes to donate and wrap as many toys as possible to make the project a great success. To find out more about this wonderful appeal visit www.thisisstar.co.uk or www.sncollection.co.uk for further information about Second Nature kitchens.

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Derham, DH1 6LX
Tel: 0191 377 9527

Journey to Bethlehem

We invite you to take Journey to Bethlehem at Neville Parade Methodist Church on Friday 16th December from 6pm - 8pm and on Saturday 17th December from 2 - 4pm. Come along and experience the story of the first Christmas. Hear the Prophet Isaiah. See the Shepherds. Take a look in Mary's house. Visit Herod's Palace. Call in at the stable to see the Baby Jesus. Take a rest in the Market Place. Watch the film "It's a boy". And back in the present day meet Father Christmas.

Make the journey alone or come with family and friends. On Sunday 18th December there will be the Candlelit Carol Service at 6pm. A warm welcome awaits you at both events.

Make it Easy on Yourself

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN AFRICA

Aycliffe Duo Take Aid from Aycliffe to Malawi

An enormous thank you to Newton Press, friends and family in Aycliffe and beyond for their generosity to the "Maize Appeal for Malawi". The grand total raised in two weeks was £1232., which paid for nearly 100 bags of maize. We also bought 30 rush mats, 140 writing books, 100 pens, drawing papers, sticky tape for a local primary school, paid for twenty children to start school and bought 9 hens!

The bags of maize were shared between two families because we saw such a great need. We also fed two orphanages and two mountain villages where we saw the worst poverty. Gratitude poured from these delightful people who knew for the next month they wouldn't have to worry about providing a daily meal for their families. Our trip was full of incredible experiences both joyful and heart wrenching including children going without a meal on the day we visited Namirango primary school as no volunteers had turned up to cook.

We saw a girl trying to keep little more than a sole on her feet as the majority of Malawians never own a pair of shoes. A little boy, dirty and ragged led his young, blind, thin mother with one hand, begging with the other.

We witnessed the joy on the faces of those receiving maize, and clothing and met 9 students whose education was sponsored at £80 per year 2,200 aged 6-13 years attend Namirango Primary School with classes of 90 plus. Such numbers mean that two of the



older classes sit under a tree to be taught in temperatures of 90 plus degrees while the teacher writes on a portable blackboard.

The class rooms were bleak with nothing but a black board and chairs and desks on which 4 or 5 children squashed in and in one class there were 9 text books between 95 children! The youngest children didn't even have desks and sat on the dirty, dusty floor! The children had nothing to play with in or out of class, no balls, bats, dolls-NOTHING. Children are supposed to wear a uniform for school but only about a tenth were in uniform and their own clothes were well past their best.

We are continuing our support for our 11 older students, but in addition over the coming years we can make a difference in this school, and helping those who live in the area.

The Malawian government provide primary education but parent/guardians have to pay a "school fund" of 100 kwacha per term, or 300 kwacha per year which is about £1.20. They are supposed to provide a uniform which costs about £8 plus shoes, a book, pencil and soap for personal use and for clothes, which amounts to £10 per year. Some parents/guardians are so poor they cannot even afford the 300 kwacha, so education is denied to their children.

Our vision is initially to help 200 needy children with the above allowing them to access education which is so important if they are to have a chance of breaking the cycle of poverty. If anyone would like to help provide the requirements for a child's education please contact Norma or Debra.

There are two million orphans in Malawi among a population of 14 million with grandparents, aunts, uncles and other extended family having to support these children but this can lead to even greater poverty. An average Malawian earns approx 47p per day to support their families. We discovered it is not cheap to live in Malawi with most groceries twice as expensive as here and a jar of jam four times as much! Food is so

expensive we lived on cheese sandwiches and no ordinary Malawian would ever shop in a supermarket.

Malawi is known as the "warm heart of Africa" and we know this to be true, being welcomed with open arms and hearts by everyone we met. We left with joy in our hearts and a definite purpose to continue supporting some of the poorest people in the world.

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HISTORY LESSON FOR CUBS & SCOUTS



Acle Re-enactment group held a combat and craft display at the Scout Centre and invited local cub and scout groups to experience what life was like in Anglo-Saxon times for a Viking or Saxon warrior.

The event was well attended by scouts from Aycliffe and surrounding areas and the children were given demonstrations on weapons of the period. They had hands on experience of wielding swords, spears, axes and shields from the period and had the opportunity to wear heavy chain mail and helmets worn by Viking and Anglo Saxon warriors.

The children were also put through their paces forming up for battle and enacting shield walls, and ultimately, valiantly fending off Viking invaders at the end of the display, which they all clearly enjoyed!

Craft demonstration were also available including Tapestry, with samples taken

from Bayeux, which proved interesting for many of the parents who attended. Anyone interested in learning more about Acle Re-enactment group; the combat and crafts of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking period, should contact Wendy or Stuart Findlay on 320514 or email stuartf@wendyf.orangehome.co.uk

Acle attend local events throughout the year including Sedgefield Medieval Fair.

Vacancy Filled

The position of Office Assistant at Newton Aycliffe Town Centre has now been filled. I would like to thank all of you who applied and please accept my apologies for not contacting you all directly this was due to the number of applications received.

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER

Great Aycliffe Town Council has been in the Newton News in recent weeks, not so much for what it has done, but – in a couple of letters – for whether we need it at all! But GATC is vital for our local democracy, and we abandon it at our peril.

Great Aycliffe Town Councillors are elected by the people, and their role is to make sure that Council services are appropriate and value for money, and also to be the voice of the people speaking out for the community.

Thursday 1st December was one such occasion. The Town Council had already debated the Boundary Commission changes, but its decisions had been overtaken by events, so an Extraordinary Meeting was held to reconsider its position. After a presentation explaining the different proposals, the Council decided unanimously to request the Boundary Commission:

1. to maintain Aycliffe (North, East, West and Greenfield Middridge) as a single electoral unit.
2. to support a Great Aycliffe-Billingham

Constituency, largely as proposed by Mr Phil Wilson, MP, but excluding Yarm and including the Greenfield-Middridge area of Great Aycliffe.

3. that the name 'Great Aycliffe' should form part of the constituency name. This issue has been well-aided in the Press, and there can be few Aycliffe people who do not approve of these decisions.

The Environment Committee (held immediately after the Full Council meeting), considered the reports of a very successful Annual Allotments meeting, and of work on the Jubilee woodland, Byerley Park Nature Reserve, Bluebell Wood, School Aycliffe Wetlands and Aycliffe Nature Park.

The Council has also had a survey of all the Council's mature trees carried out.

The Recreation Committee met immediately after the Environment Committee. Members heard that usage and takings both on the Golf Course and in the Oak Leaf Complex were down on the same period last year (this is hardly surprising, given that unemployment

in the town is up 16% on this time last year).

The Councillors congratulated officers on the success of the Annual Firework Display, but asked that the sound system be improved for next year (and that the fair music be turned off during the actual display).

Members also heard that the post-excursions questionnaires had shown that 96% of respondents thought that the Senior Citizens' trips this year had been 'excellent' or 'good'. The Committee agreed that the destinations offered next year should be: Scarborough, Skipton, Windermere, Dumfries, and Blackpool, with the half-day trip going to South Shields.

Finally, Councillors decided not to participate in a Nestlé promotional campaign, which would have involved the Council offering free sessions at the Oak Leaf Complex; members decided that the Council should run its own promotional campaign instead.

As far as I am aware, all these decisions were reached unanimously.

Drink, But Don't Drive

IAM chief examiner Peter Rodger said: "Now is the time of festive fun and this often involves Christmas parties. If you're heading out for a few drinks, make sure you have planned your journey home."

Rodger offers tips on driving over the Christmas period:

- Don't try and calculate whether or not you are over the limit.
- Drinks poured at home are usually larger than pub measures.
- If you drive to a party and drink more than you expected to, don't risk it. Book yourself a taxi or arrange for a friend or family member to collect you from your location.
- A drinking session the night before might put you over the legal limit the

following day.

Keep this in mind and organise alternative travel plans for the next day.

• If you know someone has been drinking, don't let them give you a lift or drive home.

Rodger said: "Drinking and driving has serious consequences. It is not only about your safety, but other road users. It is not worth the risk."

To help drivers stay safe this winter, the IAM has launched a new website, drivingadvice.org.uk - with traffic updates, weather forecasts and tips on how to drive safely in winter.

Tips cover rain, snow, ice, fog and wind – everything you can expect in a typically unpredictable British winter. Check it out before you travel.



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SUNNYDALE
3 bed semi - £80,000
SKIRLAW ROAD
3 bed end terrace - £92,500

FREE XMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Come along to Greenfield Community & Art Centre and join in the holiday fun. Our Holiday Programme for children and their families starts on Tuesday 20th December and runs until

Friday 23rd December. This year's Free Art & Craft activities include: decorations, card making and gift boxes. We also have Christmas cooking activities and Christmas

films. For further information and to reserve a place on any of our free activities please contact Greenfield Community & Art Centre, Tel: 01325 37 90 48

CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton, will host a Civic Carol Service on Sunday, 18th December 2011 in St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthberts Way, Newton Aycliffe, at 6.00 p.m.

The Service will be attended by Civic Dignitaries from the surrounding areas and Councillor Mrs. Dalton would also like to cordially invite members of the public to join her in this celebration of Christmas. Refreshments will be available in the Church Hall following the service.

TARGET FOR SCHOOL PLAY EQUIPMENT REACHED



Students at Byerley Park School are benefitting from new play equipment purchased through fundraising efforts of the school's PTA and support from four Durham County Councillors.

Fundraising over the past two years raised £3000 towards the project, but with an additional £500 secured from Cllr's Mike Dixon, Enid Paylor, Joan Gray and Paul Gittins from the Members Initiative Fund, the total amount of £3500 was reached.

Head Teacher Alison Gargan thanked everyone for their efforts and said: "The purchase of the new play equipment will help enhance the appearance of the school and give our pupils a great opportunity to engage in healthy and active break

times." Pictured at a recent visit to the school are: Cllr Paul Gittins, Cllr Enid Paylor, Alison Gargan, Cllr Mike Dixon, Vikki Slee, Kate Wimbury, Debbie Turton and Cllr Joan Gray.

ID's for Young People

There will be an ID4U event on the 13th December 2011 between 10:00-13:00 at unit 11 next door to Coffee Pronto in Newton Aycliffe town centre (up the ramp). ID4U is a scheme which is ideal for young people who need a proof of identification but don't want to carry a valuable proof such as a passport or birth certificate. ID4U is also recognised by many retailers which will help younger looking people purchasing products. Application forms are also available at Newton Aycliffe Police station unit 23 Parsons Court.

Christmas at Greenfield



Start the holidays with lots

of family fun at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre's free arts and craft activities.

Tuesday 20th December: 1 - 3pm: Make Christmas decorations with artist Sarah Robson. (8 years and over).

Wednesday 21st December: 10.30-12.30: Xmas Cooking. Make and taste delicious treats with 'Season to Taste'. (£7.50/ family, ingredients provided) 1-3pm: Make Christmas cards with artist Sarah Robson. (8 years and over)

Thursday 22nd December: 10.30-12.30: Xmas Cooking. Make and taste delicious treats with 'Season to Taste'. (£7.50/ family, ingredients provided) 1-3pm Make Gift boxes with artist Sarah Robson. (8 years and over)

Friday 23rd December: 1-3pm Enjoy a Xmas movie with GAMP mobile cinema (Children under 8 years old must be accompanied by an adult).

For further information and to reserve a place on any of our free activities please contact the Art Centre, on 37 90 48

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you should be able to find what

they are looking for.
So why not pay down in your local Town Centre and start
to celebrate Christmas.
On behalf of all of us who work and trade in the Town
Centre I would like to wish everyone in Newton Aycliffe a
very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.
Bryan Haldane, Town Centre Manager

Coffee Morning at Library

Christmas Coffee Morning at Newton Aycliffe Library on Friday 16th December 10am-12 noon.

Come along for your Christmas books, hot drinks and mince pies.

NEW GENERAL MANAGER AT HALL GARTH HOTEL

Award winning Hotelier Pam Mooney is the new General Manager of Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club.

Pam was General Manager at Redworth Hall Hotel in the late 1990s when the hotel succeeded in winning a whole host of awards including twice being voted Pride of



Northumbria - Best Hotel.

For the last 12 years Pam has been employed as Operations Director at STR Enterprises Ltd, a North East based hotel and leisure company.

Pam said: "I am Darlington born and bred with a passion to make Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club a venue that consistently delivers high quality, friendly service and a memorable experience for locals and visitors alike.

The food served is of a very high standard with many dishes taking their inspiration from 5 star hotel, The Vineyard at Stockcross in Berkshire, where a number of our chefs trained with celebrity Head Chef Daniel Galmiche."

Hall Garth Hotel and Country Club is a stunning period property set within 70 acres of its own parkland. It has its own Par 73 golf course, a beautiful indoor swimming pool together with a steam room, Jacuzzi, sauna and gymnasium.

TRY SOMETHING NEW AT THE PIONEERING CARE CENTRE

The Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe has a huge range of events, classes and courses that will suit everyone. Below is just a taste of the many activities taking place. Visit www.pcp.uk.net for a full listing or call 01325 321234.

Tone and Stretch - Monday 9.30 -10.30am. A mix of circuits and floor exercises designed to create overall tone and improve fitness. Cost: Free.

Back Exercise Class - Wednesday 5:15-6:15pm Delivered by qualified physiotherapists. Benefits people who have back, neck and joint problems. Cost: £3.50

Tai Chi - Friday 12.15 - 1.15pm. This popular form of exercise is a series of slow, controlled movements which helps develop strength, balance, posture and calm.

Cost: £3.50.

Colour your Life Family Session (Arts on Prescription) - Friday 3:30-5:30pm. Access to art activities to promote positive mental health and wellbeing (under 12's must be accompanied by an adult). Cost: Free

Mall Coffee Shop - Offering a selection of freshly prepared hot and cold food at affordable prices to suit all tastes and budgets. Open Mon-Fri 10am-3pm.

The Pioneering Care Centre has recently rolled out a new, **free Wi-Fi** offering to all its service users and visitors, making it easier to get online within the centre.

For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way, Newton Aycliffe, tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net

Check it Out Ipod Winner



The GAMP Check it Out tour was a great success this term! Check it Out is an interactive 20 minute experience that uses light, sound, film and graphics to explore teenage issues. The project was developed and managed by Katy Milne at Greenfield Arts Centre) and made by young people from the Sedgefield locality with support from artists, health workers and youth workers.

GAMP AAP kindly funded a tour of Check it Out to Greenfield, Sunnydale and Woodham schools where each student got the chance to enjoy the experience. "It made me think about my relationships and how I treat people." (Year 11 student), "The use of the lights and the smoke made it feel great, it made me realise the dangers of drinking too much." (Year 9 student)

As part of the project, each student had an opportunity to win an iPod touch. The lucky winner was drawn by Brian Riley, GAMP co coordinator and presented to the student Well done to the lucky winner Baily Goyns (Greenfield).

Response Unit Has Moved

A service providing the first point of contact for anyone who has a concern about a child or a young person living in County Durham has moved.

The new address for Initial Response, with immediate effect, is: Initial Response Team, Suite 4, Abbeywoods Business Park, Pity Me, Durham, DH1 5TH

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NURSERY RAISE £133



Little Acorns Nursery took part in various activities to raise money for Children In Need. The children coloured in Pudsey Bear and stuck pennies on, wore fancy dress and sold colourful cakes. In total we raised £133.22

Thank you all the children, Mums, Dads and carers for their support, what a great job you did.

Cubby News

The volunteers at the Cubby would like to thank everyone for their support at the Sale of Work Day and is pleased to announce it raised just over £750.00. Mystic Mop is available on 16th December from 6.30-9pm.

Group readings £3.00 each. Individual reading £10.00. Please ring the Cubby between 9am-12pm, Monday-Friday for a booking. Tel: 01325 307449 Christmas Dinner will be served on 20th December from 12pm-2pm. Please ring to book a seat. Dinner + pudding is £4.00 each. Tel: 01325 307449.

Free Filmshow

Residents of Newton Aycliffe are invited FREE to the following showings with the NEW Great Aycliffe and Middridge Community Cinema.

"Nativity" - Saturday 10th of December at 1pm showing at Burnhill Way Methodist Church, Scott Place.

The Muppets Christmas Carol - Sunday 11th of December at 2pm showing at Neville Parade Community Centre.

Feel free to bring your own refreshments and popcorn!!

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2012

Friday 6th January - The 80's Experience

The best disco party ever, two course buffet

Arrive at 7.00pm, buffet served at 7.30pm - £10.95 per person

Saturday 7th January - Badness

Premier tribute to the sounds of Madness, Bad Manners & Buster Bloodvessel

a Fabulous Retro 80's Night. Evening includes a two course buffet and disco.

Arrive at 7.00pm buffet served at 7.30pm - £17.95 per person

Sunday 8th January - Wedding Open Day

Come and take this opportunity to view the Coleman Suite and John Burdon Suite set up for Wedding Receptions and a Civil Ceremony.

No appointment necessary just come along anytime between

11.00am and 4.00pm

Friday 13th January - 80's Sensation

A Non-stop 80's Party Performing all the greatest hits from Tiffany, Adam and the Ants, Starship, Buggles, Duran Duran, Wham and many more.

Evening includes a two course buffet and disco

Arrive 7.00pm, Buffet served 7.30pm - £17.95 per person

Friday 13th January - Night Fever at the 70's Disco

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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New Logo for Agnew

Over four weeks Miss Wingfield's Year 8 Blue at Greenfield College split up into four groups during Creative and Personal Development lessons and were commissioned by Secretary Ron Mitchie to design a new logo for the Agnew Community Centre at Morrison Close.

Our group, which included Emily Harrison, Danielle Louise Kidd, Harry Laverty, Oliver Potts, Brittany Marie Davison and Courtney Finch are the proud creators of the new logo, which consists of two hands holding, to show an

example of people coming together in one respective place. We also added a slogan of 'Young, Old, Shy or Bold' which Danielle Kidd created with the help of Brittany Davison.

We had numerous prototypes, but in the end, decided to go with Emily's idea, changing parts as we went along. Our logo was a great success and Ron Mitchie and the rest of the team from the Agnew thanked us by presenting a ticket to Planet Leisure.

Written by
Brittany Marie Davison
& Danielle Louise Kidd

OPTIMISM AS INTEREST IN TOWN CENTRE GROWS



In recent weeks Newton Aycliffe Town Centre has seen the opening of three new businesses The Computer Shop, Kidz Go Green and Gr8vibes all offering new and different services to the people of the town.

Our Mayor Mary Dalton made a special effort to welcome the newcomers and pass on the best wishes of the Town Council.

Town Centre Manager Bryan Haldane said: "This and other interest in the Town Centre proves the importance of our re-development plans which will be led in the early part of next year with the building of the new Aldi supermarket. "Hopefully residents will

visit the Town Centre over the festive period and support these and the other 50 shops we have available".

MOTOR TORQUE

By Ramsays of Aycliffe



Changes to MOT Certificate

Each month your local car dealership and service centre, Ramsey's Garage, will bring you useful information on the car industry and some helpful hints and tips.

This month they give us an insight into what your MOT certificate means and some important changes.

Your Certificate is a record of the MOT database and it confirms that your vehicle, without being dismantled, meets the minimum environmental and road safety standards required by law. It doesn't mean your vehicle is roadworthy for the certificate's life and it isn't a substitute for regular servicing and maintenance.

From the 16th October 2011 the MOT certificate has changed. The certificate will look different printed on plain paper in landscape format instead of pre-printed coloured paper. With the old style test, notification of failure was given on a red VT30 form, notification of pass on a green VT20 form and any advisory notes were on a separate amber form.

This has been simplified to one certificate for vehicles that pass, with any advisory notes listed on this certificate. When your vehicle is tested, your test record is entered into a secure central database and you are given either an MOT pass certificate, or a failure notification.

The certificate is your MOT test

receipt and details information held on the database. It relates to the condition of the testable items at the time of test and should not be regarded as:

Evidence of their condition at any other time;
Evidence of the general maintenance condition of the vehicle;
Evidence that the vehicle fully complies with all aspects of the law on vehicle construction and use.

The test certificate is no longer proof of MOT and should not be relied on as such. Only the computer database can prove a vehicle has a valid MOT.

Benefits of the New System: Checking the validity of your MOT certificate is simple. Visit: www.direct.gov.uk/yourmotcheck

When buying a car, with the new style advisory notes detailed on the certificate, you will have more transparency as a buyer.

The system is more efficient for car garages, reducing paperwork and freeing specialists up to work on your vehicle.

There are environmental benefits with less paperwork printed. MOT testing is vital to keep a check on the health of your car, as well as being a legal requirement, but it isn't a substitute for service and maintenance.

If you have any queries on MOT matters contact Ian at Ramsey's www.ramseys.co.uk Tel: 01325 300200

More Responsibilities for Town Councils

Dear Sir,
In response to Coalition Cuts, Councils and other Public Services examine what they must do. Services like School Crossing Patrols, Public Toilets, Supervising Parades, anything discretionary can be cut or passed to volunteers, without funding, to meet Public and Legal Liability, maintenance, and sky-high public expectations.

It's my belief that Parish and Town Councils with their precepts unaffected by Government edicts, are prime targets for these giveaways. They have the means, legal, financial and staff, to do so, and above all, public expectations to meet these real local needs.

This 'Pass the Parcel' packaging, minus funding, has been a bone of contention for years but residents

quite rightly expect their local Council to take on responsibilities on their behalf.

I believe they should, sharing the cost by raising the precept, in consultation on priorities, costs, and the means to meet them. Unpopular with some, but ask the people about Child Safety the need for Toilets, Parish Parades and other local needs to be met that cannot be met by volunteers in our modern society.

Why not be honest and mature about OUR local needs and give our Council a remit to adjust the precept and on our behalf, and beady eye, properly provide for OUR agreed priorities by sharing costs, spreading the cost and thereby reducing costs?

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Competition time

For your chance to win a place on a Daisy Birthing Pregnancy class in Durham, Darlington or Teeside e-mail us at tracy@lazydaisybirthing.co.uk to tell us why you are 'Pregnant & Proud', with your name and location.

Winners will be announced on the day.

lazy daisy Growing Happy Babies

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Pregnancy 2011

Junior Disco

A Christmas Young Children's Disco is arranged at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Friday 23rd December. Admission £2 (age limit 10yrs. parents welcome). KDO disco will provide the music, fun and games. Father Christmas will visit with a present for all the children. Details from Dorothy Bowman on 308094.

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Messy Xmas!

Messy Church is all Christmassy! This Saturday 10th December at 3pm St. Clare's Church will be glitter heaven - craft, stories and songs, all with that special Christmas message and a wonderful tea afterwards!! The afternoon is suitable for all young children and their families - you will be made most welcome.

Property Sale

HOUSE FOR SALE Butler Road, Newton Aycliffe 2 bedroom end terrace, modern kitchen/bathroom, large gardens, offers in the region of £79,950.00. Tel 07904 545234

Blessing

PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART

"May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Saint Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Saint Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen." Say this prayer nine times a day, by the ninth day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication should be promised. Thank you Saint Jude and Saint Anthony for all prayers answered. Please continue to look after us. J.A. (Sen)

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DOES ANYONE own a light coloured Tabby and white cat, white face and it has no tail and is very timid? If so, please contact 07724 092303

Wanted

DJ LIGHT REMOVALS also household items removed free of charge, old TVs cookers, washers, fridges, mattresses, bikes etc. Garage clearances undertaken. Tel 321567 or 07984 817 111

Lost & Found

LOST Grey and white Tom cat, amber eyes, very friendly, missing since 19-11-11. Tel 07845 830874

LOST Lhasa Apso dog, last seen on 3rd December in the Blue Bridge area. Black and white, named "Lady", family is devastated, reward offered for safe return. Tel 07849 332488

Weddings

BEAUFORDS, Daimler limousines, Rolls Royce's, Mercedes and Jaguars available for weddings, anniversaries and special occasions. Tel 01740 620 147 (Sedgefield), 07721 771 113 or visit our website on: www.durhamweddingcars.co.uk

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FUN-n-BOUNCE Bouncy Castles for hire with and without slide, adult sizes available. All parties catered for, also available for indoor use. Tel 01325 307 445 or 07594 436 127

STOLEN T.V.'s!

POLICE are appealing to the public for information involving a large quantity of stolen televisions from Newton Aycliffe. At least 20 televisions are still outstanding from a burglary on Monday, 21 November at a factory unit based in Newton Aycliffe.

The televisions belonged to ACLET who own the distribution warehouse based in Unit 14 Northfield Way at Aycliffe Business Park.

Officers initially seized ten sets from a Ford Escort van near to the scene but it has now come to light there are at least 20 more still to be recovered.

The televisions are thought to be unique as they are branded specifically for the German market and therefore carry a distinct logo making them easily identifiable. The logo consists of the letters SEG in silver writing on the

front of the televisions.

Three men have already been charged in relation to this incident.

Acting Det. Sgt. Karl Hopps, leading the investigation said: "These televisions are unique and we are appealing to anyone who may have been offered one of these sets to contact us as soon as possible."

Anyone with information is requested to contact Durham Constabulary on 0345 60 60 365. Alternatively they can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Health & Beauty

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LOTTERY CASH FUNDS NEW LUNCHTIME PROJECT AT GREENFIELD



AN OLD school gym has been transformed into a hive of activity during dinner breaks thanks to lottery cash. Greenfield Community College have used the funding to launch an Active Lunchtimes Project, currently consisting of 21 different lunchtime activities to encourage young people to keep their minds occupied and stay active during the break. Dozens of students are making use of the new common room, with a pool table, table tennis tables, computer consoles and other games being provided during lunch.

The Extended Schools Service successfully applied for funding from the Big Lottery Awards for All programme. Local freelance fitness instructor Keiran Cain has been brought in to run the lunchtime activity club. "The kids love it," said Keiran. "The school wanted to launch the project to make constructive use of young people's time during the dinner break to make it more conducive to learning."

"They're well attended and the youngsters are using all the new equipment provided so it's been a great success up to now. "It has also encouraged a lot of young people to socialise who wouldn't normally, so that's helping to encourage a strong community spirit within the school."

Michelle Postma, Extended Schools Co-ordinator for schools wrote the successful Awards for All bid to access funding for the programme. Michelle said: "We're

delighted with the project up to now and the school is seeing a positive reaction from students. "Some of the reasons for underachievement can be a lack of positive activities to keep young people engaged and focused before school and during breaks, so the project is aimed to address that".

Head Teacher David Priestley added: "There's a number of reasons we wanted to introduce the lunchtime activity programme, the main being to encourage positive social development among young people in the college and to improve school behaviour generally."

"It's also hoped to bring young people together, strengthening cohesion between students, which is taking a proactive approach to tackling potential anti-social problems in school. "I'm delighted to say this project is helping us achieve those and several other objectives, so we're pleased with the progress of the scheme so far."

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2 Awards for Aycliffe Company

An Aycliffe renewable energy firm is celebrating after snapping up double awards at the prestigious Star Radio Business Awards 2011.

One of Revolution Power's top apprentices, Lois Prest, was first to celebrate after she picked up the Outstanding Young Person Award during the radio station's Awards evening.

This category recognises any young person aged between 16 and 25 who has made an exceptional contribution to the workplace and Lois, 21, was chosen for her dedication to work. Having joined the Company as a second-year apprentice back in early 2010, Lois has been promoted to office supervisor after showing excellent organisational and management skills.

She said: "It feels absolutely brilliant to have won this Award, especially as I've never been this close to winning anything like it before. It just goes to show that hard work really does pay off and that my help is really appreciated around the office. I now want to continue doing what I can for the Company." Revolution Power was also honoured with the Business of the Year Award, for innovation in renewable energy provision and considerable Company growth in the last 12 months, much of which includes its appointment of apprentices. The annual Star Radio Business Awards



recognise and highlight the achievements of many North East businesses. They help to raise the profile of these businesses and enhance their reputation, whilst also rewarding them with significant advertising space on Star Radio.

Star Radio managing director Mark Reason said: "We are proud to present Revolution Power with two outstanding Awards this year.

"As well as doing its bit for the environment and community in various ways, the Company also shows us how important and valuable young apprentices are in the workplace, which is crucial in this current climate.

"We hope these two Awards will give Revolution Power the recognition it deserves and will help the Company to continue growing."

Revolution Power provides renewable energy products and services for domestic, commercial, community,

educational and agricultural projects. For more information on the Company, please visit www.revolutionpower.co.uk.

Christmas Wishes

JOHNSON Tom and Molly and Dandy of Beechers Grove, Woodham wish their friends and neighbours around the town a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2012

LOVELASS Michael and Pam, Langley Road, send Christmas Greetings to all friends and neighbours and wish them a happy 2012

For Sale

BARGAIN BUYS Take-Away Deal: new autowasher, A energy class, full manufacturers guarantee, £189 boxed and in stock, ready to load into your car boot. Tel 321 678

JIGSAWS for sale, 1000 pieces, one owner, excellent condition, no missing pieces selling at £2.50 each. Tel 01325 315509

LADIES Apollo bike with gears (dark pink), good condition, £20 ono. Tel 07810 738733

QUALITY Mahogany furniture which includes, dinning table four chairs, corner unit, hi-fi unit, tv unit and drum table. All matching and very good condition. £150.00 ono tel 314724

PANASONIC DMR-EZ28EB DVD recorder, built in Freeview and twin tuner, Viera link, HDMI and 2 scarts, £100. Tel 07810 544664

DOUBLE divan bed with luxury orthopaedic mattress, brand new, still wrapped, cost £400 accept £13. Can deliver, Tel 07748 841707

LADIES Falcon mountain bike, 10 speed Shimano gears, silver, 22" wheels, immaculate condition, looks new. Cost £150, ideal gift, selling for £50. Can deliver or store until Christmas. Tel 316641

TABLE and 4 chairs and wall unit, £50. Tel 07779 890006

WHIRLPOOL larder fridge, excellent condition; Slimline dishwasher, excellent condition. £50 each or both for £90. Tel 01325 324974

BRAND NEW double divan with orthopaedic mattress £150. Can deliver, Tel 07789 113343

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THREE piece suite, mink dralon with reversible cushions, good condition, can deliver, £65. Tel 07789 113343

ELECTRIC hostess trolley, as new, cost £200, will accept £75 ono. Tel 01325 308196

CAR BOOT items, several boxes, offers. Tel 317752

RED 3 SEATER and 2 seater couches in very good condition, removable washable covers. Can deliver in Aycliffe. £130 ono Phone 300438

Congratulations

DARREN BROWN Happy 30th Birthday Darren, lots of love Grandma & Grandad xxx
DARREN Happy 30th birthday Darren. Lots of love from Christa xxxxx
DADDY Happy 30th birthday. Lots of love from Alfie and Archie xxx

In Memoriam

June Bennett

09-02-48 to 12-12-86
"One of God's most beautiful and precious creations"



To mark the 25th Anniversary of June's death, an entry has been made in the Book of Remembrance at St Clare's Church. This will be displayed on 12th of December 2011 and each year thereafter. Visitors are welcome

STEPHEN PARKER 12th December 2004. Close to my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Love always, Margaret xxx

STEPHEN PARKER 12th December 2004. If tears could make a stairway and memories a lane, I'd walk right up to Heaven and bring you home again. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxx

ENID PARKER 17th December 1996. Loving memories we have locked in our hearts, you shall not be forgotten because we are apart. From your loving Daughter Susan and Grandson Shaun xxxxxx

JOHN GASKARTH 13th December 2001. A flower may die, the sun may set, but a Dad like you, we will never forget. Your loving family

STEVE STEWART 25/08/1961 to 14/12/2009. Still sorely missed Son. Dad & Babs

STEVE STEWART 14th December. Two years today I had to part with a Son I loved with all my heart. Miss you so much. Love, Mum xxx

JOHN CASSIDY (Cass) 12-12-1987. We loved you then, we love you still. You left a space Cass, no one can fill. I have my memories all year through, God broke the mould when he made you. Loved always, Doris and family and Grandchildren

RITA THOMPSON 11-12-2008. A very loving Sister and Auntie. Memories we treasure, will last forever. Love you always. Doris and family

TREVOR PLASKITT Died 12-12-2010. Deep in our hearts you always stay, sadly missed. Beloved Wife Valerie; Daughters Shirley, Julia, Jason and Adam; love from Grandchildren Jonathan, Maxine, Louis and Mia. God bless, family and friends xxxxx

TERRY LENDRUM 12th December 2002. Remembrance is a golden chain that links us till we meet again. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Loving Husband, John and family

LEIGH BOWMER Happy 2nd birthday Son. Have a great day, all my love, Mammy xxx
LEIGH BOWMER Happy 2nd birthday to our Brother. All our love and big hugs, Paige, Brooke and Kaci xxx
LYNNE HARDY Happy 50th birthday. All our love, Anita, Micky, Ross, Robyn and Reed xxxxx

LYNNE HARDY Happy 50th birthday. Lots of love from Ian, Karen, Curt, Brad, Megan and Charlie xx

LYNNE HARDY Happy 50th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Peter, Yolanda and Ricky xxx

LYNNE HARDY Happy 50th birthday Lynne. Love from Alyson and Andrew

GARLICK Vernon and Tot congratulations, celebrating 50 golden years on 9th December 2011. Love from Paul and the lads, Jill and Darren

CHLOE MILLER 15th December 1997, happy 14th birthday to our special girl, have a great day. Love, Mam, Dad and Morris

CHLOE MILLER To our beautiful princess on your 14th birthday, 15th December 2011. We love you so much, have a lovely day. Lots and lots of love from Nanna and Grandad Miller and Uncle Eddy xxx

CHLOE MILLER Happy 14th birthday pet for 15th December 2011. Lots and lots of love from Auntie Mandy, Uncle Gary, Darren, Danny and Stacey xxx

COREY DENTON 9th December, Happy 13th birthday. It's official you are now a teenager. Lots of love from Grandma, Grandad and Auntie Amanda

CAITLIN HUGHES 10th December. Happy 11th birthday. We don't forget you! Love, Granda and Nanna Hughes

CAITLIN REBECCA HUGHES 10-12-2011. Happy 11th birthday, love and miss you always. Dad xxx

JOSHUA HODGSON 11th December. Happy 6th birthday Son, hope you have a good day. Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy

JOSHUA HODGSON Happy birthday to the best big Brother in the world. Lots of love, Tai and Hayden

JOSHUA HODGSON 11th December. Happy 6th birthday to our wonderful Grandson Joshua. Lots of love, Nanna and Grandad

KARA WARDLE 7th December. Happy 2nd birthday angel. Lots of love, Auntie Sarah, Uncle Keiron, Joshua, Tai and Hayden

KARA WARDLE 7th December. Happy 2nd birthday to our beautiful Granddaughter Kara. Lots of love, Nanna and Grandad

DANIELLE HARLE Love and best wishes on your 30th birthday. Have a great birthday. All our love always, Mam, Dad, Kayleigh, David, Hadyn, Uncles Joe, John, Auntie Lorraine and Cousins xxxxx

Birthday Remembrance

MARGARET KELLY 12th December. Love and miss you so much. Paddy xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 12th December 1960. Thinking of our special Sister Wendy on this special day. Love and miss you always. Love, Kay and Mandy xxx

WENDY GRAHAM 12th December 1960. Missing you darling Wife Wendy. I think of you every day. My heart aches without you. Love you forever and ever. Your loving Husband Charles xxx

Olivia Rose - 1 Emily - 7



Happy 1st Birthday 4th December

Happy 1st birthday to Olivia Rose. Love always Mammy and Daddy

Happy 7th Birthday 9th December

Happy 7th birthday to Emily. Love always Mammy and Steve

Public Notice

WATCH BATTERIES now available at Taylors Newsforce **DONATIONS** needed of Brica-Brac and other good condition items for Newton Aycliffe good causes. Ring Honest John on 316 630

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

Thank You

SHEILA TURNBULL

I would like to thank everyone for coming to my 50th birthday party. A big thanks to Mam for making it possible - "I love you". Also a huge thanks to my Daughter, Rebecca for a fantastic buffet, love you sweetheart. Thanks also to Michael for being the DJ and big Michael for the entertainment, you were both fab!

GEORGE SMITH

The family of our lovely George would like to thank all friends for their kindness and condolences during this sad time. He was loved by everyone who knew him and this love filled St Clares Church on 23rd November 2011, and will live on. Special thanks to Linda Potter, Vicar and Pamela Lovelass of St Clares for the beautiful Service and support given to George's family, you gave us strength. Sincere thanks to Julie and Christine and colleagues of the Co-operative Funeralcare for your compassion and dignity. To George from those he loved: I am like the blue sky, you are like the sun, we can not be parted, we are just as one. I am like the river, you are like the sea, we can not be parted, for I am you and you are me. Rest in Peace George, until we meet again, forever in our hearts xxx

FOTHERGILL

Essie and Paul wish to thank friends, neighbours and relatives for their sympathy, cards and generous donations of £145 for British Heart Foundation, in memory of Norah

HOPPER

June and family of the late Billy would like to thank relatives and friends for all their kindness and support and the cards received during their sad loss. many thanks to Fr Dennis Tindale for his comforting Service. Special thanks to Dr Scott and staff at Peace Way Surgery. Thanks also to Darlington Memorial Hospital and the McMillan team. Thank you to the Co-operative Funeralcare for all their help and support

Darren Brown



Happy 30th Birthday Son

Love you loads Mam and Dad xxx

Jack "Stroppy" Braley

Happy 50th Birthday Aycliffe's supreme number one fly fisherman. Lots of hugs and kisses from all the lads who put up with your tantrums xxxxx

Susan Gaskarth



Happy 50th Birthday 9th December 1961

Happy birthday to a dear Wife, Mam and Nana. Love, Alan, Claire, Mark, Fearn, Hannah, Alan and Cole xxx

Carter Reid



Happy 1st Birthday 6th December

Lots of love, Mummy, Daddy and big Brother Heston xxxxx

Holiday

FLORIDA VILLA now booking for 2012. Sleeps 8, close to all attractions. www.villafloida.biz or call 300 212 (M-F, 9-5pm)

FLORIDA VILLA Disney, sleeps 8/10, pool, spa, games room, visit www.florida-villa-2-rent.com or call 320 409

FREE COURSE TO GAIN CERTIFICATE TO WORK IN ENGINEERING

The Preparation for Work Skills Programme is a new pre-employment scheme with an employer interview. Course referrals are welcome from across the North East region.

If you are interested, please contact your Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisor

This is a Free of Charge course for eligible benefit customers (18+) and courses are currently being run at: A-Tech Fabrications Ltd, Walworth Road, Aycliffe Business Park, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6XF.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS COURSE?

This course is for anyone who would like to gain the skills and knowledge to work within the Manufacturing or Engineering sector. You will receive hands-on training and relevant qualifications to open up opportunities of employment. On successful completion of the course candidates will achieve a nationally accredited certificate and a guaranteed interview with a local company.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INCLUDE?

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HOW LONG DOES THE COURSE LAST?

The course is a maximum 30hrs per week over an 80hr period. There is also the possibility of extending a course for a period of up to 6-weeks depending on the candidate's and or company needs.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE COURSE?

Learners must be aged 18 or over and receiving eligible benefits. All course materials and protective equipment will be provided

OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT

Contact Jobcentre Plus – Ask For Your Personal Advisor.

KEEP YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING UNDER WRAPS!

As the Christmas shopping season moves into full swing, people are being reminded about keeping their valuables safe from opportunist thieves. Items bought as presents can turn into a gift for thieves if they are left on open display in cars parked in public areas. This applies to presents and other valuables on display near Christmas trees at home, if they can be seen by anyone passing by. Shoppers should also be extra vigilant with their money and credit cards – stores full of busy, distracted people can be a magnet for pickpockets. Inspector Paul Anderson, said: “As part of our Safe City initiative, officers will

be out and about in during the busy times leading up to the festive season.” Inspector Mick Button, neighbourhood inspector for Darlington, added: “We want people to shop in safety wherever they are, and ask that they help us to help them by following some simple tips.” This is the Durham Constabulary advice to keep your valuables safe during the run-up to Christmas: **Don't leave valuables on open display in parked cars. Store them in the boot and make sure it's locked.** **At home, keep Christmas presents and other valuables away from open display near windows. When out shopping, keep your purse/wallet/credit cards close to you, don't make it easy for pickpockets to grab and run.**

Victory for Aycliffe Squash Player



Newtonian Alex MacFarlane is celebrating his victory in the North of England Under 17 Squash Open held in Newcastle. This was his first tournament in this age group and he is hoping for more success in the forthcoming Aycliffe Open. He started playing at the age of 10 and is now one of the best 15 year olds in the country. Alex regularly assists Coach Bill West at the Aycliffe Oak Leaf junior sessions each Tuesday from 4.15-6.15pm. Aycliffe Squash Club owes much of their success from the sponsorship of Holiways Ford for which they are very grateful.

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“AYCLIFFE FC HAVE QUALITY PLAYERS” says Manager

Star players Ben Wood and Warren Byrne are expected in Aycliffe's starting line-up for their trip to Bedlington Terriers this weekend. The Newtonians go to the seventh-placed Tyneside club hoping to make up for their 2-0 defeat at home to title-chasing Sunderland RCA last week. Wood, star of Aycliffe's title-winning team last season who's been out for two months with a broken arm, is expected to be back in the starting eleven. Striker Byrne is also expected to make his first start for Aycliffe since returning to the club from Shildon a fortnight ago. Aycliffe were rocked by the departure of forward Elliot Gardner, one of the club's most influential players of the last three years, who signed for Division One title-chasing neighbours West Auckland. But boss Allan Oliver, who

hopes to announce at least one big-name new signing in the next week or two, is confident Aycliffe will be able to maintain their top-half position this season. “We have enough quality in our squad to get through this,” said Oliver, who's side haven't won in their last three league outings. “When we won five games on the spin last month, I kept saying I wasn't getting carried away because I know, in this league, you can have bad spells when you just can't buy a win. Oliver is keen to remind fans of how far the club has come in the last few years. Last week, they were runners-up in the senior team award at the Northern Echo Local Heroes awards dinner – not only for last season's second division title, but also for their rapid rise through the leagues and the £350,000 development of Moore Lane Park over the last three years.

“We're competing against clubs who have budgets four or five times the size of ours, so I'm delighted that we're sixth in the table going into Christmas. “But it's a continuing battle and, without the big sponsor which all the top clubs have in this league, we're always going to struggle to compete at the top end of the table.” Aycliffe only managed a draw against Tow Law three weeks ago, followed by a narrow 1-0 defeat against rivals Spennymoor Town. But then their recently-found inability to convert chances cost them dearly last Saturday, when Sunderland RCA produced a lesson in clinical finishing to take the points with a 2-0 win. Aycliffe go to Bedlington Terriers this Saturday (December 10), when the Supporters Club bus leaves the Sports Club at 1.15pm and returns at 5.30pm, costing just £7 for members and £9 non-members. To book, call Yvonne Wood on 07500 866535.

AYCLIFFE RUNNING CLUB REPORT

With the Winter weather finally arriving the hardy souls of Aycliffe Running Club have continued to tackle the cross country courses. It was the turn of the Croft XC last weekend in arctic winds and freezing rain. Special mentions for their performances go to Lucy Postle, 18th in the under-13 girls race, Michelle Scott, an excellent 8th in the ladies race and to Andrew Sedgewick and Matt Heron who both improved on their previous outings in the senior men's event finishing in 38th and 48th position respectively. Other results were as follows – Peter Milburn - 35th (33-50) George Reid - 40th (34-08) Richard Campbell - 76th (37-40) Martyn Knox - 87th (38-34)

Kevin Greenall - 91st (39-11) Trevor Needham - 96th (40-03) Dean Barclay - 99th (41-13) Matthew Phillipo - 102nd (42-18) Gary Minns - 109th (45-15) Rob Nicholson - 111th (46-46) In the third fixture of the North East Harrier League at Blaydon, four Aycliffe athletes competed and all ran well. In a field of over 400 runners, the outstanding performance of the day was from Kevin Greenall, who stormed round the course to finish in 40:33 in 337th position. Dave Thompson was over 10 minutes faster than his previous cross-country outing finishing in 47:16. Other finishers were Martin Knox 39:39 and Colin Gibson 42:12.

8 GOLD MEDALS!



Local swimmers competed in the North Eastern Regional Championships held at Sunderland Aquatic Centre on 3 & 4th December. Representing Sedgfield 75 were Caroline Saxby, Rhiannon Foulds, Sam Dixon, Megan Baker, Hannah Featherstone and Mathew Bradley. The squad ended the year with a total of eight gold medals at an event where 20 lanes of swimmers raced at the same time. In the Open Events Sam competed in the 100 & 200 FS. 200 & 100 & 50 Fly

the 50 Bk & 50 FS. Megan competed in the 800 & 400 FS and Rhiannon competed in the 50 Bk & FS. They all swam well achieving best times in most of their swims but found it very hard competing for the first time in the Senior Events. Caroline competed in the 200 FS & 200 IM, 50 FS & 100 FS taking 4th place in the 200 FS, 3rd in the 100 FS and Gold Medal in the 50 FS. In the Age Group events Hannah swam in the 100 & 200 FS taking 4th & 3rd. In the 100 & 200 Bk she was placed 2nd in both events and in the 200 IM took 4th place. Mathew swam in the 200 & 100 Brst, the 100, 200, 400 FS, the 100 Fly the 200 IM and the 100 Bk. He swam best times in all of his events and took a total of seven gold medals and was placed 3rd in the 100 Bk. In the BAGCAT awards for 2011 the 13 year age group for boys was won by Mathew Bradley and Hannah Featherstone was placed second in the 12 year age group for girls. The training leading up to the event had gone very well but the outcome exceeded all our expectations. All the swimmers in the squad contributed with great attitude during training in the weeks leading up to the gala.

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