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The True Meaning of Christmas



Mary (Hannah Bussey) and the baby Jesus (Samuel McCarthey)

Neville Parade Methodist Church was transformed into Bethlehem last weekend and a steady

stream of visitors enjoyed taking the journey. Along the way they called in to see the angel appear to Mary, visited Herod's Palace and saw the baby Jesus in the stable. Many of the visitors enjoyed the film 'It's a Boy' and everyone took away a booklet explaining the true meaning of Christmas.

Season's Greetings from the Town Council



The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Mary Dalton, Fellow Councillors and Staff of Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

THANKS FROM NEWTON PRESS

The Directors and Staff of Newton Press thank readers and advertisers for their support over 2011 and look forward to providing the same service in 2012.

THE WINDOW GUY

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MESSAGE FROM SANTA

Santa Claus would like to thank all the boys and girls who have sent him such lovely pictures and collages with their wish list letters. Santa says he has replied to all the letters, but there were some with the address or even the names missing. Santa would like to tell all of these children that he is trying very hard to get the presents they have asked for, but not to be too disappointed if he can't bring everything that was on their lists. Below is a selection of letters he received.

Leo from Heighington Primary School would like a Jakavawa, a moshi monster DSI game.

Paris would like a Moshi Monster tree house.

Luke Allison has asked for a

scooter and his sister, Emily would like a motion tree house.

Thomas has promised to leave me some corned beef pie and coke (and carrots for Rudolph) and he would like some blue cars and a rocket.

Santa got a really big letter from Joy Sydney who asked for moshi monster tree house.

Mark wants a Thomas the Tank Engine.

Matthew Jackson wold like an iPod in white and a laptop.

Owen has a long list of things including Diesel Work playset, bike, scooter and as many trains as allowed.

Thomas would like a new skateboard and Skylanders as well as some remote control cars.

Lucy Ann Barron would like a Kindle, Bratx all Glammed up and Aqua Pets.

Marcus wants Airhog Vetron Wave, Hot Wheels Battle 5 and Toy Story Wood.

Kieran Smith has asked for a long list of things including Kinect for Xbox 360, Monte Carlo from Orange, Apple TV and Science Museum ATM Touchscreen Bank.

Sienna has asked for Twist and Scooter, a Scooby Doo Dog and makeup.

Sophie would like a pink computer, a toy horse barn and Hello Kitty, Barbie things and lots, lots more.

Maddison Mackinlay would like an Xbox and a scooter.

Santa says he hopes everyone has a lovely Christmas.

Moore Lane Sports Club

NOTICE

Please note that the Sports Club is a private members only club. Officials will be on duty at all times to check memberships. The club will be operating a card check over the festive period, in particular on New Years Day.

By order of the Committee

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.

THE TURBINIA

* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

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 In 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, ie: instead of sticking to Sweet Child Of Mine, they did Welcome to The Jungle, different G&R 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.offerm.co.uk

Monday 26th December - The Elvis Experience

Our "show of the month" nights - One of the countries top ELVIS acts

"MIKE MEMPHIS & THE MEMPHIS BELLES SHOWGIRLS"

'2010 has been a fantastic year for 'MIKE MEMPHIS & THE ELVIS EXPERIENCE'. Regular bookings, referrals and re-bookings for 2011, along with a starring appearance at the Journal Tyne Theatre in Newcastle. The icing on the cake however, was that MIKE was asked to perform on the anniversary of ELVIS' birthday for the official Elvis Presley fan clubs 'birthday bash' - the first time an Elvis Tribute Artist has ever been allowed to perform for this official fan club. Testament not only to his ability as a performer, but also to Mike's own genuine admiration for the King of rock n roll. Mike has already been booked by the fan club for a variety of shows over the next 18 months.

This year has seen the rise and increase in popularity of his 'road to vegas' cabaret show. This show features the gorgeous 'MEMPHIS BELLES VEGAS SHOWGIRLS' who join Mike taking you through the ELVIS years, performing fantastic dance routines and treating the audiences to some stunning costume changes. A very 'VEGAS' show!

A review from top north east music venue - 'If atmosphere is any judge of a performance, then MIKE MEMPHIS as ELVIS must rank along the top acts ever to play at THE THREE TUNS, because there have been few nights I have enjoyed as much as this - MIKE MEMPHIS IS ELVIS - AND ELVIS HAS MOST DEFINITELY ROCKED THE BUILDING' - www.kelvis.co.uk

Saturday 31st December - No Live Entertainment

Saturday 7th January - "BULLET"

RIFFS MAGAZINE review: Turbinia 07 'The prognosis from tonight's performance is definitely a thumbs-up, passion, energy and excitement are what BULLET deliver and watching the crowd at the Tub go crazy for them, then it's obvious they are on the way up very quickly. BULLET seem to have got it right and given the odd break or two could seriously be set to worry some of the more established bands - Watch out for BULLET, they could just have your name on them'

Tracks by: Guns n Roses, Pearl Jam, Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, Iron Maiden, U2, Ozzy, Foo Fighters, Velvet Revolver and More - www.bulletband.co.uk

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

SANTA CHRISTMAS EVE TOUR

Thank You

Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Newton Press for donating the space in the Newton News to publicise our Annual Santa routes.

Thank You

Great Aycliffe Town Council would like to thank Aycliffe Fabrications, Linden Hose, Ross & Wright (all of Newton Aycliffe), and Trevor Burns Fencing of Ramshaw, Bishop Auckland for the community spirited loan of their vehicles. This is much appreciated.



Dear Newtonians

I am very much looking forward to touring Newton Aycliffe on Christmas and meeting all the boys and girls. Because there is so much to do I may be a little late, so listen out for my bell and horn.

Merry Christmas Santa

ROUTE 1

3.45 pm - 4.10pm: Aycliffe Young Peoples Centre, Welbury, St Oswalds, Central Avenue

4.10pm - 5.00pm: Washington Crescent area, Wycliffe, Armstrong , Wren, Whitehead, Hutchinson, Hylton, Matthew, Wolsey, Richardson, Trevor, St Aidans, Felton

5.00pm - 5.30pm: Neile, Defoe, Trevor, Porter, Wheeler, Lamb, Espin, Bellasis

6.30pm - 6.00pm: Wiseman, Ewbank, Hardinge, Chandler, Chapman, Crowley, Hardinge, Bousefield, Faber, Kendrew, Sanderson, Redworth Grange, Elstob, Burn, Westmorland, Henson, Whiteley, Thurlow, Aylmer

6.00pm - 6.45pm: Dalton, Hartley, Faulkner, Hullock, Allington, Walcher, Lilburne, Macmillan, Bertie, Alington, Webb, Westmorland, Newburn

6.45pm - 7.30pm: Humphrey, Silkin, Stead, Wright, Priestman, Marshall, Burdon, Lightfoot, Stephenson

7.30pm - 8.10pm: Barrington, Ashfield, Tunstall, Carileph, Ebba, Bruce, Pease, Past RAFA club to Paulinus

8.15pm: Back via Pease

ROUTE 2

3.45pm - 4.05pm: St Cuthbert's/Bede, Anne Swyft, Clarence Chare, Clarence Close, Clarence Green, Clarence, Baliol, Hackworth

4.05pm - 4.45pm: Baliol, Travellers, Linguard, Seton, Gilpin, Clanny, Palmer, Cosin

4.45pm - 5.15pm: Co-operative Store, Bury, Wilkinson, Van Mildert, Greathead, Shafto and return to Greville, St Cuthberts

5.15pm: St Clare's Church

5.30pm - 6.00pm: Sharp, Sheraton Road, Sheraton Close, Greville, Henderson, Crewe, Sharp, Hunter, Lumley, Sheraton, Crawford, Sheraton, Biscop

6.00pm - 6.25pm: Hatfield, Heild, Biscop, Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck

6.25pm - 7.15pm: Via Shafto to Creighton, Moore, Swan, Gunn, Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny, Carr, Markham, Secker, Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer, Vane, Fowler, Warburton, Jackson

7.15pm - 7.40pm: Shafto, Shield Walk, Stanfield, Denham, Ramsey, Eden, Langley, Malling

7.40pm - 8.00pm: Central Avenue (Fire Station), Church

ROUTE 3

3.45pm-4.45pm: Greenfield, Burnhill, Malham, Reeth, Rylstone, Askrigg, Skipton, Arncliffe, Aysgarth, Hawes, Pateley, Stainforth, Keld, Marrick

4.45pm - 5.35pm: Garburn, The Lanes, Burnhill, Hawkshead, Honister, Silverdale, Lindisfarne Care Home, Kirkstone, Langdale, Whinlatter, Eskdale, Greenfield, Linden, Greenfield

5.35pm - 6.15pm: Beechfield, Rowan, Elmfield, Pease, Oakfield

6.15pm - 7.00pm: Cumby, Crosby, Doxford, Crosby, Lowery, St Godrics, Mills, St Godrics, Cumby

7.00pm - 7.15pm: Watson, Simpasture, Simpasture Gate, Moule, Finchale, Gregory, Lambton, Lee, Hopper

7.15pm - 7.30pm: Finchale, Dixon, Walker, Simpasture Gate, Emerson, Butler, Castlereagh, Merz

7.30pm - 8.10pm: Butler, Ritson, Bowes, Lyon, Bowes, Marley, Wallas, Isherwood, Bewick, Emerson

ROUTE 4

3.45pm - 4.45pm: (Aycliffe Village) Durham, Millfields, Atkinson, Orlands, Green (Mill House), South, St. Andrews, High St, Heighington, Oakley, Congreve, Bickford

4.45pm - 5.30pm: (School Aycliffe) West Cottages, North Cottages, Eastfields, The Garth, Midfields, Lord Neville, Binchester, Menville, Burnynghill, Forresters, Smythsons, Sheppards, Thursby, Wilbore, High Barn, Meatlesburn

5.30pm - 6.10pm: Springfield, Hazelrigg, Lowfields, Hansard, Jennison, Westfields, Hillfields, Greenfield

6.10pm - 6.30pm: Malvern, Colwell, Bedford, Wilton, Greenfield, The Chase

6.30pm - 7.10pm: Staintondale, Rookwood, Zetland,

Covert, Stirrup, Bramham, Bedale, Post Horn, Saddlery, Greenfield, Byerley Park

7.10pm - 7.45pm: Lascelles, Luttryngton, Hambleton, Ranulf, Jesmond, Colburn, Elwick, Claxton, Russell, Yoden, Wynyard

ROUTE 5

3.45pm - 4.10pm: Brafferton, Grange, Chilton, Grindon, Whitton, Woodham

4.10pm - 4.45pm: Lowther, Brook, Cartington, Mulgrave, Helmsley, Middleham, Burleigh, Badminton, Stoneleigh, Lowther

4.45pm - 5.00pm: Hickstead, Stag, Kennilworth, Cheltenham, Gatcome

5.00pm - 5.35pm: Epsom, Kempton, Windsor, Fallow, Fawn, Hind, Raby, Brancepeth

5.35pm - 6.00pm: Village, Bamburgh, Chillingham, Alnwick, Barnard, Pemberton, Farnham

6.00pm - 6.35pm: Beaumont, Kirkham, Egerton, Dudley, Howson, Clover, Sorrel, Yarrow, Harebell, Campion

6.35pm: St. Elizabeth's Church car park

6.45pm - 7.00pm: Sandowne, Tattersall, The Oaks, Beechers, Paddock, Croft, Woodham, Sunningdale, Low Green

7.05pm - 7.45pm: Spinney, High Green, Granges 1 - 4, Bridle, Woodham Gate

ROUTE 6

3.45pm - 4.30pm: Hallington, Tindale, Derwent, Angram, Scholars, Broomlee, Stocks, Waskerley, Fewston, Blackton

4.30pm - 5.15pm: Meadowfield, Ladybower, Greenlee, Stainmore, Winterburn, Grassholme, Burnhope, Stainmore, Meadowfield, Hareson, Cestria

5.15pm - 5.45pm: Lisle, Lockyer, Hoode, Cheviot, Pennine

5.45pm - 6.30pm: Bluebell Close, Coverdale, Bluebell Meadows, Wolvestone, Alverton Drive & Court, Hamsterley, Barton, Paxton

6.30pm - 7.15pm: Lancelot, Temple, Gamul, Raddive, Spooner, Thwaites, Eade, Avon Court

7.15pm - 8.00pm: Scott, Bakewell, Booth, Bates, Sid Chaplin, Fox, Brockett, Loraine, Thornton, Sampson, Merlin, Kestrel

ROUTE 7

3.45pm - 4.10pm: Rose Lodge at Cobblers Hall, Foxglove, Ashtree, Pinewood

4.15pm - 5.10pm: Ropemoor Way, Forster, Patenson, Wakenham, Youens, Haselwood, Blackiston, Carwardine, Karles, Bloomesley

5.10pm - 5.20pm: Acle Burn, Acle Meadows, St. Andrews, Ryder, Agnew, Kings

6.00pm - 6.10pm: Ida, Osbert, Guthrum, Osric, Aldfrid, Wellhouse, Morrison, Tanfield, Stargate, The Ballarat

6.15pm - 7.00pm: Kimblesworth, Fenhall

6.15pm - 7.00pm: Hutton, Callerton, Deleval, Elemore, Phoenix, Brockwell

7.00pm - 8.00pm: Heatherburn, Foxton, Herrington, Hardwick, Butterwick, Rushyford, Layton, Woodham Way

Aycliffe Lodge Helps Sick Children's Trust



Aycliffe Freemasons regularly raise money for good causes and recently made a donation of £500 to Crawford House, part of the Sick Children's Trust attached to the RVI at Newcastle. The Trust keep families together when their child is in hospital by providing accommodation in houses in the hospital grounds. The houses are open throughout the year and can accommodate 23 families, all funded by voluntary donations. Freemason Godfrey Bennett heard of this good work and recommended the Lodge raise funds to support Crawford House and he is shown here presenting the cheque to Regional fundraiser Caroline O'Doherty at the British Legion Club.

Newton Aycliffe WMC

Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe

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PCP's JANUARY 11th OPEN DAY WILL OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Fitness, Floristry and Photography, try something new in the New Year at the Pioneering Care Centre. The PCP have added a variety of new classes and courses to the long list of activities delivered in the Centre.

They are inviting people to come and see what is on offer at an **Open Day on Wednesday 11th January, 9:30am - 12noon & 3:30pm - 6:00pm**

There will be a full programme of activities including community learning courses such as an Introduction to Youth Work or Computers for the Terrified. People can enrol at the Open Day; the majority of courses last 4 weeks, are free if people are in receipt of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) otherwise they only cost £4.60 per hour.

The Centre also runs a variety of exercise classes to encourage people to live a healthier lifestyle. People can find out more about the range of classes available and how they benefit as well as talk to qualified Health Trainers for advice on the diet and nutrition, physical activity, goal setting, stopping smoking and much, much more.

People over the age of 40 should go along to find out more about the new range of free exercise classes on offer including Zumba and Thighs Tums and Bums!

Course tutors and PCP staff will be on hand to answer questions and free refreshments will be available.

Carol Wood, Business Development Director for



the PCP says: "We feel there is a full range of exciting and interesting activities on offer in the New Year to help people get fit, learn a new skill, discover a new hobby or improve their confidence and self-esteem.

We would also like to know if there is something people want to do that isn't on offer. Please pop in, have a nosy and a free cuppa and tell us what you would like the Pioneering Care Centre to offer you in 2012."

For further information contact the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers' Way,

Two Retirements at Vane Road School



The end of the Autumn term 2011 saw the final bow from two much-valued members of the teaching staff at Vane Road Primary School. Mrs Linda Wilson, Deputy Headteacher, is retiring after 25 years whilst Mrs Ann Hunter, a key member of the Leadership Team and Literacy leader, is retiring after 31 years at the school. During this time, both ladies have contributed massively to the education of children in Newton Aycliffe as well as to the wider community that Vane Road Primary School serves. "We take this opportunity to wish both Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hunter a long, happy and healthy retirement and Bon Voyage as they enjoy pastures new," said Headteacher, Mr Craig.

MINCE PIES & CHOCOLATE AT XMAS COMMUNITY CINEMA

On Friday 23rd December at 1.00pm at Greenfield Arts College, we will be showing the Christmas film POLAR EXPRESS.

The film starts at 1.00pm and there will be mince pies and hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream. The best thing about it is it's **COMPLETELY FREE!**

This is a fantastic opportunity to bring your family along and get in the festive spirit.

Please feel free to bring along your own refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

Aycliffe Neighbourhood Police Team would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the residents of Newton Aycliffe Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

PCSO 6859 Mike WELCH
Newton Aycliffe Beat Team
Greenfield/Middridge Ward
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DAY**

AWARDS FOR PCP STAFF

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) wanted to recognise the importance of its staff this Christmas and the part everyone plays in the delivery of PCP's mission: 'to improve people's health, wellbeing and quality of life'. This year staff were asked to nominate their colleagues for 3 separate awards along with a 4th award decided by the management board.

The results of the Staff Award Scheme were announced at the Christmas Staff Meeting. Everyone received a personal gift from Santa Claus who then presented the winners with their very own trophy. Lynn Rocks, Arts Co-ordinator was awarded with the Creative Thinker/Great Idea Award/Bright Spark Award for her dedication and enthusiasm towards the Colour Your Life, Arts on



Prescription programme. Outstanding Service to other Employees Award went to Jane Cunningham, Operations Administrator for her flexibility and co-operation. Jane has gone beyond her normal job requirements to deliver an

'outstanding' service with positivity. Ian Dick, Facilities Caretaker, was awarded the Unsung Hero Award for being consistently reliable, adaptable and often going beyond the call of duty.

The Chairpersons Special Award was presented to Becky Gustard, Operations Co-ordinator for her outstanding commitment to the whole organisation.

Jane Hartley, Chief Executive of the PCP said "Becky has been fundamental in the PCP adding to its ever expanding range of quality standards and awards. Being "Quality Assured" means we value our stakeholders and believe that, working as a team, we can build a better organisation and provide better services and outcomes for our service users, volunteers and staff. Becky has been outstanding in pushing the PCP to be recognised for providing such a high-quality service. A massive 'Well done and thank you' to everyone, not just to the overall winners but to all staff, volunteers and board of directors for their hard work and commitment in helping us achieve so much this year."

The PCP run the Pioneering Care Centre, there is a whole host of new activities, classes and courses starting in the New Year, why not go along to the Open Day on Wednesday 11 January to see what is on offer.

For further information contact tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net.

Awards for Gymnasts

Athena Sports Academy formerly Sam's Flexibility Club - based at Newton Aycliffe & Sunnydale Leisure Centres report a brilliant end to the year at Athena Sports Academy! The last day involved lots of fun, but most importantly much inspiration and success from all gymnasts in the awards ceremony.

Congratulations to all gymnasts on their efforts this year. Athena is very proud of you all! We would also thank all parents, coach helpers, administration staff and Leisure Centre staff for their support, not forgetting Marie for terrific Zumba instruction.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the new year. Sessions recommence 7th January. PS: All raffle and cash prizes have been claimed, The cuddly dog was won by Billy Dinsley.

If you would like to join our club please contact Julie for further details on: 313714.

Best Wishes from Sam, Gerry & Jeff

Youth Helps Sue Ryder Charity Shop

The Youth Centre is now working in partnership with Sue Ryder when people can drop off any items for resale in their shop. We believe in the support of people living through the challenges of life-changing illness.

Sue Ryder says "for some people we support the people by caring for them around the clock in one of their hospices or care centres. For others it's about regular visits at home, helping them with those everyday things that might not come easily any more. Or keeping them active and involved in their community" Joan Clark secretary of the Youth Centre says that the management committee welcome this support and bags are available at the centre for anyone willing to donate.

NOMINATE A HERO FOR CHAIRMAN'S MEDAL

Big-hearted people who have made a difference in their communities are being sought as nominations are made for the Chairman's Medal.

Durham County Council is looking for individuals that have done something outstanding in their life or a group which has done something great for their community.

The Chairman's Medal is presented to individuals and groups to recognise significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life.

It's the council's highest honour and the chairman is looking for nominations from across the county in the run-up to a major presentation event next year.

The medal has been County Durham's top civic award since it was introduced in 2007 and Council Chairman Dennis Morgan will be holding a ceremony in March 2012 to present outstanding individuals or groups with the final medals of his chairmanship.

Cllr Morgan is asking for nominations which can be assessed and put forward to the presentation event on March 9 next year. The deadline for nominations, which should be sent to the Chairman's Office, is 20 January 2012.

There will be three winners, from the north, south and eastern areas of the county with other nominees being recognised with a certificate. The council is working with the AAPs to find people who have gone above and beyond to make a difference.

Cllr Dennis Morgan, Durham County Council Chairman, said: "There are so many unsung heroes in County Durham who do things for their community that can go unnoticed."

"I want this presentation event to be a celebration of the achievements and effort

that people of our county put in every day - a little time to reflect on the excellent work that people do for each other. "We are writing to all our AAP forum members and voluntary organisation partners to ask for

nominations but anyone can nominate someone." Anyone can nominate a group, organisation or individual for a medal. Log on to: www.durham.gov.uk/aap Email: aap@durham.gov.uk Tel: 0191 372 5298

"ELVIS" IN AYCLIFFE ON BOXING DAY

After a sensational gig earlier in the year The Turbinia are pleased to announce the return of one of the countries top ELVIS tributes on Boxing Day at 7.30pm

2011 has been a fantastic year for "MIKE MEMPHIS & THE ELVIS EXPERIENCE". Regular bookings, referrals & re-bookings for 2012, along with a starring appearance at the Journal Tyne Theatre in Newcastle.

The icing on the cake was that Mike was asked to perform on the anniversary of ELVIS' birthday for the official Elvis Presley fan club - the first time

an Elvis tribute artiste has ever been allowed to perform for the official fan club.

Mike has already been booked by the fan club for a variety of shows over the next 18 months. This year has seen the rise and increase in popularity of his "Road to Vegas" cabaret show featuring the gorgeous "MEMPHIS BELLES VEGAS SHOWGIRLS" who join Mike to take you through the ELVIS years, performing fantastic dance routines and treating the audiences to some stunning costume changes. A very real "VEGAS" show - everyone welcome. Tel: 313034.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 11th January 2012

**Environmental Committee
Recreation Committee
from 7.15pm**

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

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

The Press and Public are cordially invited to attend.

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

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**NOW IN STOCK
Xmas Trees - Salt
Wreaths - Sledges
Snow Shovels**

An Easy Way to Raise Cash for Your Group

Clubs, Schools, Uniformed Groups and charitable organisations in Newton Aycliffe thinking of running a raffle to raise funds should seriously consider joining the Rotary Club Community 2012 Jubilee Draw where they keep 75% of the money from raffle ticket sales.

The Rotary Club organise everything else including obtaining the prizes, printing the tickets and organising the registration and actual draw.

All the partners do is sell tickets relieving them of all other responsibilities. It is the easy way to raise funds for your own group or charity of your choice.

The Jubilee Draw is the Rotary Club's way to help town organisations get over the difficult economic times and help them survive.

The draw is scheduled to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee in June 2012 and as it is our Monarch's 60th anniversary sixty valuable prizes will be available to win.

All proceeds from the draw, after expenses, goes to charity and if anyone wants to help with prizes or wishes to join as a partner to sell tickets for their group, please get in touch with Project Leader Syd Howarth at Newton News, Tel: 300212 (work) or 320901 after hours.

SIMPASTURE CONVENIENCE STORE

Cheryl, Maurice, Janet, Debbie and Gill would like to wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year

SHOP FESTIVE OPENING HOURS:

Christmas Day: CLOSED

Monday 26th (Boxing Day): CLOSED

Tuesday 27th: 7.00am to 8.00pm

Wednesday to Friday: 6.00am to 8.00pm

Saturday 31st December: 6.30am to 8.00pm

Sunday 1st January: CLOSED

Monday 2nd January: 7.00am to 8.00pm

then back to normal shop hours

NEW TO THE SHOP

We Now Sell Newspapers and Magazines

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Collection Raised £147

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton would like to thank everyone who attended her Carol Service on Sunday, 18th December. The collection of £147.66 which was taken at the end of the Service was very much appreciated and will be contributed to the Mayor's Charities which are the Army Benevolent Fund (North East) and Town organisations.

XmasGreetings

To all the residents of Aycliffe West, a happy Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous 2012, from Durham County Councilors Mike Dixon and Enid Paylor, and GATC Councillor, Kate Hopper.

ROMAN RE-LAUNCH WEBSITE

Newton Aycliffe based shower designer and manufacturer, Roman Ltd, have completely overhauled and re-launched their website to include a totally redesigned look and to incorporate new content, as well as to make it as user-friendly as possible. The redesigned website features a refreshing new look to perfectly complement their brochures. It has been designed to be consistent with Roman's sister company, Roman at Home's website, incorporating the Roman Brand's designer motif pattern. It is also much more image led to highlight Roman's product range. It offers two sides to the website, one for trade customers and one for



general consumers. The trade side of the Roman site incorporates elements such as line drawings and instruction manuals which are available for download. From this side of the website Roman's retail customers can request stock of brochures via a simple form, along with other marketing material such as POS. Trade customers can also request a call out from their regional manager. Within the trade side of the website, customers can access the Roman image bank, where they can quickly and easily download high resolution images for their own marketing material. This also sits within the press area, so journalist can access the images for any showering features they may be working.

The website has been designed with a better search function, which can handle miss-spellings, so visitors can easily find the product they need. To ensure consumers can search for their nearest displaying retailer, the Roman site still includes a showroom locator, but this has now been designed to offer more functionality – visitors can search by both town and postcode, to make it easier to use.

Roman's new website includes much more detailed information about the company, including their background, along with a section dedicated to how Roman is working to be environmental conscious. This sits alongside much more in-depth, detailed information about Roman's product range. David Osborne, Managing Director of Roman, commented: "We are really pleased with the look and feel of the new Roman website. A lot of the site development has been done in house, which gives us much greater flexibility in terms of being able to update and change the website. The internet has become such an important tool for both trade customers and consumers when it comes to researching what products they would like. Therefore it is essential we have a website that can be easily updated and changed so it always contains our

most up to date products, information, displaying showrooms and marketing material. With the new Roman website, we have total control and can ensure our customers can always log on to find out the latest products and company news."

INNOVATIONS GROUP HELP CHILDREN IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS



The Innovation Group provides a weekly Coffee Morning at Woodham Community Centre each Thursday from 10am till noon and everyone is welcome. The members are part of a project which assists people with learning difficulties and recently they ran a special Children in Need event and raised £120. Regulars at the Huntsman Pub and collections at Woodham News, Redz and Lagoon Salon all contributed. Kelly and all her friends at Innovations thank everyone for their kind support.

LOCOMOTION No. 1

Free House serving Fine Ales and Lagers

Saturday 17th December

CHARITY NIGHT

Live Music from "Eves Apple" 8.30pm

Hamper Raffle Draw in aid of Macmillan Nurses

CHRISTMAS FAYRE £15.00 per person

CHRISTMAS DAY MENU £35.00 per person

Bookings now being accepted

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Opening Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am-6pm:

Saturday 8.30am-2pm

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State of the Art Diagnostic Equipment
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NEW STEEL RADIAL SPECIALS

195 x 60H15 - £46.95

205x55W16 - £49.95

225x40W18 - £59.96

PIRELLI SPECIALS

205x55W16 - £67.95

All Fully Fitted

SNOW TYRES FROM £54.95 inc

What's Next?

New You in 2012...?

From

Youth Work to Floristry,
Cupcake Decorating to
Counselling!

For a full programme
of new courses &
activities on offer
at the **Pioneering
Care Centre**
come along to the:



Open Day

Wednesday 11 January

9:30am – 12noon & 3:30 – 6pm

Free refreshments available

Pioneering Care Centre

Carers Way, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4SF

www.pcp.uk.net

Tel: 01325 321234

enquiries@pcp.uk.net



Beauty Offers at Noir Council Budget Update



Aycliffe's latest beauty salon now have a range of exciting new pamper treatments. For girls and boys hoping to look their best over the holidays, Noir Beauty have issued a number of offers from nail treatments to spray tanning. Based at St Cuthbert's House on Aycliffe Business Park, Noir Hair and Beauty has now been running for just over a month, with two full-time specialist hair stylists. Their fully-qualified beautician, Jade Copelin, is having a busy period as party-goers spruce-up. Current offers at Noir Beauty include: Spray tans £10; eyelash tint, brow

tint, brow wax £12; eyelash extensions & brow wax £12; express manicure & spray tan £20; spray tan & eyelash extensions £20. Hair pin-ups and curls are also available for just £15, while Christmas vouchers are now available and there's a range of Gelac and Minx nail treatments on offer as well as Christmas L'Oreal Hair Packs. Noir Beauty's opening hours are 9.00am-6.00pm (Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays), with late nights Wednesdays and Thursdays (9.00am-8.00pm) and 9.00am-4.00pm on Saturdays. To book an appointment with any of the girls, call 313391.

Durham County Councillors are to receive an update on the authority's work to achieve substantial budget savings. They have already identified the need to make savings of £123.5m over the four year period between 2011 and 2015 following reductions in Government funding. This further report updates the savings required to £145.8m over the five years between 2011 and 2016. At Cabinet next week, members will also receive an update on the budget for 2012/13 as well as information on how the council's Medium Term Financial Plan is being developed. This includes new steps being taken to help achieve the necessary savings, such as the decision made by Full Council this week, following a recommendation from Cabinet last month, to end council tax discounts on empty properties. This is expected to generate an additional £2.1m income. The report states that the expansion of the council tax base, to take into account the greater number of properties in the county, is expected to result in an additional £0.8m in council

tax revenue. The report also refers to the consultation carried out last year by the council as part of the budget decision-making process, which involved more than 8,000 residents and partner organisations. The results of which have again been used to help identify how the savings should be made. This year an inaugural county-wide Area Action Partnership forum meeting was held which gave residents the opportunity to put questions about the budget to the council's Leader, Cllr Simon Henig. Presentations were made at each of the 14 AAPs throughout November on how spending priorities still matched the original consultation outcomes. The five main priority services identified last year – including winter maintenance; repairs to roads and pavements; adult care services; community safety and tackling anti-social behaviour; and child protection, adoption and fostering – are still influencing spending decisions. Cabinet members will also be given an update on work being carried out to try to ensure any changes to services do not have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable or minority groups. The final report and decision on the 2012/13 budget will be made at a meeting of the Full Council in February 2012.

Xmas Party at Planet Leisure



On behalf of Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club a massive thank you to Planet Leisure of Aycliffe who provided over 100 members of our club the opportunity to have a Christmas Party with bowling instead of the usual team function. On Saturday 17th December NAJFC took all the lanes for

children of all ages to enjoy ten pin bowling. It was lovely to see children as young as 6 playing alongside the oldest players aged 16 and seeing so many children enjoy themselves was magical, but very deafening! Afterwards the children had a tasty platter of food with much needed juice. Next year we hope to build on this wonderful experience and have all of our 180+ team players under the same roof for a Christmas party and Planet Leisure will definitely be receiving a call. As a local club it was great to support an Aycliffe business instead of having to travel further afield and the facilities at Planet Leisure were fantastic. Personal

thanks to the manager Sharon Black for the discounted party rate and her patience throughout the morning. Sharon described the children as "well mannered, polite, and a pleasure" which is a credit to the club and all of the hard work to ensure that we remain respected in our community. NAJFC could like to thank all of the managers, coaches, parents and of course players for their continued support throughout the years and we wish you all a very merry christmas. The photo shows some of the 100 NAJFC players, those missing where busy in the amusement arcade when the photo was taken.

NEVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Congratulations to Great Aycliffe to the Town Council and the Town Centre Management for a fabulous display of Christmas Lights. Congratulations also to the Little Cubs and staff at the Xcel Nursery for a wonderful Christmas Nativity play. Their production was much appreciated by the parents and grandparents. They were all stars! The Trustees and staff wish all clients a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Fun and Fitness **Calorie Burning**

NEW YEAR! NEW START! NEW YOU!

Why don't you KICK START the NEW YEAR with a BANG by coming along to one of our ADULT FITNESS CLASSES starting on MONDAY 2nd JANUARY 2012?

There is something for everyone to enjoy from Zumba to Circuit Training and dance classes in Street, Tap and Cheerleading! So come along to burn off those "Christmas Calories" in a fun, friendly atmosphere?

ZUMBA FITNESS - Mondays 6.30-7.30pm
CIRCUIT TRAINING - Mondays 8-9pm
ZUMBA FITNESS - Tuesdays 8-9pm
ZUMBA FITNESS - Wednesdays 7-8pm (Pionnering Care Centre, Cobblers Hall DL5 4SF)
ZUMBA FITNESS - Wednesdays 8-9pm
ZUMBA FITNESS - Thursday 7-8pm
ZUMBA KIDZ - Thursdays 7-7.45pm (6yrs +)

All classes are held at
THE BETHANY CENTRE
 Village Close, Woodham Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4UD

Classes are £3.50 each
 everyone is welcome to come along and join in the fun!

For further information on all of our classes, including children's classes, please contact Emma on:
Telephone: 07908 162868
 Email: aycliffedanceacademy@gmail.com
www.aycliffedance.co.uk

Register for Vane Road Reception Class



Is your child due to start Reception in September 2012? We are offering tours of our school, on the dates listed below, to give you more information about our school and what we offer. Also, it will be a great opportunity for you to ask questions.

Wednesday 25th January 2011 @ 1.30p.m
Wednesday 8th February 2011 @ 1.30p.m
Wednesday 7th March 2011 @ 1.30p.m

Please telephone our school office (01325 300380) in order to register your interest.
 Mr Craig
 Headteacher

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 New and Used Scooters
FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

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 Local Dealer and Aycliffe resident for 35 years

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CONVENIENCE STORE
 Selling: Newspapers, Sandwiches, Confectionery, etc.

New Years Eve Fireworks on sale from 27th December 2011

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MOTOR TORQUE

By Ramsays of Aycliffe



For many of us Christmas is a time for visiting family and friends so it's important we take care and prepare for the road. Winter driving usually means breakdowns, and the AA estimate it doubles over this period especially when it's really cold.

Our sales manager Ian Ramsey has put together a few helpful tips to make winter motoring less of a headache. 'It's not much fun driving anywhere during cold winter days and nights, yet we rely on our cars and often take for granted the strains snow and ice can play on our vehicles

Check the life of your battery, the extra workload from heaters, lights and wipers means the life expectancy of the battery will diminish. Try not to run heaters and fans longer than necessary, avoid starting the engine with lights and wipers already switched on. Small simple things that can make a big difference.

Many new cars use a long life Anti-freeze, check with your manual or ask for advice. A 50-50 mix of antifreeze and water in the cooling systems gives the best protection, plus a bottle of anti-freeze is much cheaper than it is to replace an engine.

Remember to clear any snow from your roof, lights and glass before setting off as this could be a hazard to you and other motorists. One of the most common yet less well documented factors for winter accidents can be the sun, especially low winter sun. Check your wiper blades have been returned to the correct position before turning the engine off. If the blades freeze to the screen you could damage them when switching on the engine.

Give headlights and number plates a clean between journeys, it's surprising how dirty they become. The AA recommend 3mm of tread for winter driving and avoid reducing tyre pressure for more grip as it impairs stability.



Winter tyres can be a good idea if you do a lot of driving as the high silica in the tread gives a much better grip in wintery conditions. Stopping distances are longer in bad conditions, especially ice. Clear your windows before setting off! How many drive off peering through a tiny gap? Be prepared, buy a scraper and de-icer. Plan your journey to include roads that have been gritted. Always put the safety of you and your occupants first, and it is better to be late than sorry. Keep a shovel, lamp and some old rugs in the boot of your car, plus extra warm clothing.

Safe and happy motoring.

Ian Ramsey

Youthy Looks Forward to New Year

The Trustees and staff of the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre send fondest Christmas greetings to all their members, centres users, funders, supporters and volunteers, who have worked to make the centre successful and vibrant over the last year. We now look forward to an even more successful 2012 with the new development of learning opportunities in the community which will be supported by Bishop Auckland College, together with links with Job Centre Plus.

COUNTRYSIDE TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE

Dear Editor,

I want to alert your readers to the continuing threat to local countryside from the proposed reforms to our planning system, currently being finalised by the Government.

It is astounding that, in such a densely populated country, most people are still within easy reach of glorious and productive countryside. I believe one of the principal causes of that happy fact has been that the planning system has enabled necessary economic growth while protecting and enhancing the countryside - perhaps your greatest national treasure.

But if the new planning rules go unamended they will mark a significant relaxation of protection for the so-called 'ordinary' countryside, the countryside next door which may have no special designation, like a National Park, but is so important to so many people.

CPRE wants the countryside to support thriving communities, provide a haven for wildlife, and produce healthy local food - with the help of genuinely sustainable planning. This depends upon the quality of life the countryside gives us all - through its beauty, tranquillity, local distinctiveness and open space - which should be valued as much as material goods and economic growth.

On behalf of CPRE, I would like to urge readers to join us in standing up for the countryside by writing to their MPs to let them know that they want the planning system to protect their local countryside, not just specially designated areas.

Bill Bryson, President Campaign to Protect Rural England

NEW SCIENCE STATUS FOR GREENFIELD COLLEGE

Greenfield Community College is now recognised with a new Science specialism, to go alongside its Arts College status.

Young people at the school, which was one of the first arts colleges in the country, will get the full range of opportunities available in specialist subjects: visual arts, performing arts and the sciences, within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Head teacher David Priestley said: "We believe this benefits all our pupils, as we are recognised nationally and internationally for our expertise as a specialist school. We're committed to creative approaches to learning as part of our ambition for all pupils".

The school's head of Science Beth Tait said: "Creativity is about having ideas and creating things in an original way. Such skills are not just at the heart of arts and sciences but are central to success in all subjects.



Head of Science Beth Tait with science teacher and assistant head Jim Ward.

Greenfield became an Arts College in 1998, and the school provides young people with opportunities to see performances and attend exhibitions.

More details about Greenfield Community College can be found at www.greenfieldschool.net

Parish Party

St. Clare's Children's Team, will be hosting a Christmas Disco Party. This will be on Friday 30th December, 6-8pm, at St. Clare's Church. £2 payable at the door, includes a burger supper.

There will be games and prizes and all children 7+ are very welcome. Any queries about children's events, please contact Mrs. Helen McCormick - 319002.

Christmas Services at St. Mary's & St. Joseph's

The Catholic Parish of St Mary & St Joseph,

CHRISTMAS EVE
Holy Mass at St Joseph's School, Garburn Place, 5.30pm
Holy Mass at St Mary's Church, Central Avenue, 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
Holy Mass at St Mary's Church, Central Avenue, 9.30am

New Children's Community Choir



"SHINE" is a new choir that has been formed at St. Clare's Church. Children from Messy Church, Kidz Flicks, Sunday Club and Parish Youth alongside children from the local community, joined together to put on a fabulous performance of the nativity 'Shine Star Shine' for church members. Everyone then enjoyed a fantastic Christmas lunch with their families who all came along to see the excited youngsters, who's ages range from 7-12.

The choir has only been formed for 8 weeks but each week has

grown steadily in numbers and enthusiasm, and now totals up to 30 children.

They also performed at the Mayor's Civic Carol Service and again their families filled the church, giving lots of support and encouragement.

The choir is now taking a well deserved break until January, but then will reform and look forward to entertaining at more events. Anyone requiring further details, contact Helen McCormick, 319002.

HARDWICK HALL
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SEDFIELD
Tel: 01740 620 253 - Fax: 01740 622 771
email: info@hardwickhallhotel.co.uk - www.hardwickhallhotel.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2012

Saturday 14th January - Best of Bond Casino Ball
Shirley Bassey Tribute performing all the greatest hits from the movies.
Casino Tables and competition for the best dressed evening gowns and tuxedos.
Evening includes three course dinner and disco.
Cocktail on arrival at 7.00pm, Dinner served 8.00pm - £20.95 per person

Saturday 14th 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 21st January - Night Fever at the 70's Disco
Arrive at 7.00pm for 7.30pm, two course buffet - £10.95 per person

Friday 27th 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 28th January - The Brainstormer Murders
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 - £21.95 per person

Saturday 28th January - Hardwick's Family Meadery
Providing you with an excellent atmosphere, great rustic food cooked the old fashioned way served by our wenches, adults receive a glass of mead, children a soft drink. Evening includes a 3 course dinner, themed dressing and traditional music.
Arrive from 7.00pm Menu available - Adults £18.95 Children £7.95

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

www.hardwickhallhotel.co.uk - Telephone: 01740 620253

Rotary Club Collects for Town's Needy Families



As usual Newton Ayclife Rotary Club is busy at this time of year collecting cash to provide Christmas hampers for the town's needy families.

You will find them in Tescos with Santa Claus handing out lollies to children and touring the streets with Santa's sleigh. President of the club, Alan Crawshaw thanks everyone for their support and wishes you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Carols by Candlelight Raised Over £1200

A special Carol Service held at the weekend in Newton Aycliffe to raise money for Breast Cancer Care was a huge success.

Organised by the North East Network of Breast Cancer Care, the event held on Sunday 4 December 2011 at St Clare's Church was a sell-out and raised over £1,200, which will go towards providing vital support and information to the thousands of people affected by breast cancer every year.

TV weather presenter Hannah Bayman was amongst the guests at the service and she read a thought-provoking poem by Carol Ann Duffy entitled Mrs Scrooge.

There were also performances by St Clare's Church Choir, Byerley Park Junior School Choir, Greenfield Steel Pans and Shine – a new choir made up from St Clare's messy church, Sunday Club, kidzflicks and Parish Youth. North East Network Organiser, Sue Brodhurst,

said: "This was a fantastic event which was incredibly well supported by the local community. We would like to thank all those people who were able to join us and make it such a memorable start to the festive season."

"The money raised will directly support those people in the area who are either facing breast cancer themselves or have friends and relatives with a diagnosis. All our services are free so fundraising events like this are particularly important."

Christmas Services at The Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE
Family Celebration,
3.00pm @ Burnhill Way.
CHRISTMAS DAY
Celebration Service,
10.00am @ Neville Parade.

TOWN BUS SOCIETY 31 YEARS OLD



Dear Sir,
I write to thank Newton News for publishing the photograph of Pudsey Bear and our Heartbeat Bus whilst at Beamish for Children in Need, which brings to an end our very busy running programme for 2011.

This year we did 70 vehicle days the highlights being Beamish twice, Heritage Week up in Newcastle upon Tyne, bookings with 5 primary schools using our re-enactors group to recreate the days of WWII, one school being St Francis CE primary school with whom we continue to work and build up our educational outreach programme. This year we again maintained our 100% record of no failures to complete a booking.

The Society is now 31 years old and has an active membership who maintain the vehicles to the high standards required of us as an accredited museum with a working collection.

A recent audit by the conservator for Bowes Museum congratulated us on our standard of conservation which scored 79% on the national standards set by the

formers Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, now subsumed into the Arts Council.

Only one other independent museum in the northern region scored higher than us. This high score has triggered an entitlement to funding for archive standard storage drawers which will protect our stock of old drawings, photographs, decals which have previously been kept in cardboard boxes.

Part of the score is as a result of the construction of an archive store together with a small IT suite funded by GAMP last year. This year GAMP funded a new lightweight scaffold tower and access steps to be able to work on the roof of our buses in greater ease and safety. This funding is very much appreciated and I write to publicly acknowledge the help of GAMP over the last 2 years.

There is always a warm welcome given to new members who in the first instance should contact the Secretary on 01325 317657 or visit our web site on www.aycliffebus.org.uk

Ian J Wiggett Secretary

"livin" Invest in People



Left to right: executive director people and communities Alan Boddy and Head of Human Resources Helen Darby with (back left to right) executive director finance and governance Alan Smith and livin chief executive Colin Steel.

One of County Durham's largest registered housing providers is celebrating after gaining silver status from the nationally acclaimed Investors in People (IiP) management standard.


livin achieved the prestigious silver recognition earlier this month acknowledging its out-standing commitment to staff and good practice in people management and are now part of the exclusive 2% of recognised companies in the UK that have achieved IiP silver status.

Colin Steel, chief executive

of livin said, "We are delighted to receive IiP silver status. livin employees have demonstrated a genuine understanding of our company's purpose, aims and objectives. To achieve the accreditation during a period of significant change in the company is testament to our commitment and team effort."

Chris Jones, head of operations at idg the Investors in People Centre for the North of England said "This is a fantastic achievement. I would like

to congratulate the team at livin on its commitment to continuous improvement. As the IiP centre for the North of England, idg is committed to working with organisations to raise standards and improve performance through people. "By offering a flexible, practical and easy to use framework, IiP is designed to help organisations and their people enhance performance and meet goals. By achieving silver recognition, livin is certainly working to do this."



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, 4th JANUARY 2012
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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FOSTER CARERS WANTED URGENTLY

OVER 400 extra foster carers need to be found across the north east of England in the next 12 months, a leading charity has warned today.

The new figures, published by the Fostering Network, show the scale of the challenge for fostering services in the region as they struggle to provide the right foster homes for all the children who need them.

Since 2008 the number of children living with foster families in England has risen by 16 per cent, and is continuing to rise. There is also an ageing foster carer population and around 14 per cent of the workforce retire or leave every year.

Without these extra families, too many children will have to settle for second best. This might mean living with a foster carer who is a long way from the child's home, school and family, or who does not have space for their brothers and sisters, or even living in residential care when fostering has been identified as the right option.

Helen Clarke, recruitment

and retention expert at the Fostering Network, said: "All children in care need a family they can grow up with who can love them, be ambitious for them and help them achieve their potential. For a growing number, foster care is the best option.

"By becoming a foster carer people can help the children they welcome into their homes to have the best possible opportunity of a positive future, to do well at school and be successful in later life.

"Foster carers come from all walks of life, from teachers to factory workers and builders to nurses. If you want to work with children and have the right skills to foster, then finding out how you can make a real difference to children across the north east could be a great start to the new year."

To find out more about becoming a foster carer people should contact their local fostering service. They can also visit www.couldyoufoster.org.uk or call Fosterline on 0800 040 7675.

Dance School's Great Show



Mary & Diane of Macadam School Of Dance send a big thank you to all cast members who took part in Showtime at Christmas on the 3rd & 4th of December at Mainsfords Community Theatre, Ferryhill Station.

It was a huge success and enjoyed by all who came to watch. Thank you to Paul Bell for 2 fab songs and John Melvin for the sound system and music. A collection for Help The Heroes raised £353 and the £50 draw was won by C. Dumighan from Durham. Have a fab Xmas & New Year and we'll see you all in 2012, xx



Why do People Park in Parent & Child Bays

Dear Sir,

After a recent trip to the town centre, I left feeling appalled. Out of the 480 parking bays in the town, only around 10 are dedicated parent and child.

In the time it took me to get my small baby out of the car and get my belongings together, four people pulled up and used the bays without a child being present. No wonder there are never any left for those who really need them.

I approached two of these individuals and gently reminded them it was parent and child space, to which both individuals felt the need to reply with obscene language, kicked up a fuss, showing complete ignorance. One woman believed she was entitled to the bay because she was meeting her daughter and grandson somewhere in the town centre and the other simply because they had a child, just not with them!

Parents don't want to be nearer to the shops, we simply need the space, which normal bays don't provide, in order to fit our car seat out

the door and get our small babies safely in and out their pram without the risk of the pram being hit by a car or scratching someones car door.

If the town council wanted to introduce mother and baby bays further away from the shops then I certainly don't mind walking. It might even be a deterrent to those without babies, prams, young children, parents with teenagers and those simply too lazy to walk from using the bays.

I believe no decent human being would park in these bays and put a child's safety at risk, and cause someone to struggle.

Shame on all you people who park in these dedicated bays with so many other spaces on the town.

You obviously don't know how long it takes to get a baby ready to go out, to simply have to go straight back home. It's disgusting and lazy and a hefty fine should be introduced to stop it happening in the town centre. This problem also occurs regularly at Tesco. Being privately owned, supermarkets have every right to hand out fines or ban an offender from ever entering the area again. Therefore I would urge more people to take the time to provide Tesco staff the car registration details of these selfish individuals so they can hand them no more than they deserve.

Brian Haldane Town Centre Manager has promised to increase the patrols so these individuals can be tackled. Until people start respecting one another this issue will sadly continue and people will carry on abusing such amenities.

Let's hope these uncaring, selfish members of society are dealt with and find themselves one of the other 470 town bays to park in. L Pennington.

THANKS TO LUNCH CLUB LADIES

Dear Sir,

As a housebound 83 year old double amputee, I would like to thank the Ladies of the St Mary's RC Church Thursday Lunch Club and the parishioners who deliver the meals.

These people do really deserve recognition for all they do. Their visits brighten up my life and bring so much pleasure.

Thank you ladies and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Michael

Festive Films

St. Clare's Kidz Flicks will be showing a range of festive films every Tuesday during the School Christmas Holidays at St. Clare's Hall beginning at 2pm. Details of the films will be displayed in the Church porch window. All are very welcome.

Tesco Parking Problem

Following complaints that people are parking in Disabled and Parent/Child Bays at Tesco's the company have stated the car park is their responsibility and they do monitor the situation.

"We do monitor these spaces as best we can and our trolley/security staff will politely (and often do) ask customers who are wrongly parked in these spaces to move and free them up for their rightful purpose.

At this time of year, when we are at our busiest, and the car park is under severe pressure, abuse is on the increase. We will of course

endeavour to tackle the problem." said Manager Martin Butcher



A PACT meeting will be held on by PC 1452 Alan Thompson at Neville Parade Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 29th December from 6-30pm to 7-30pm. Councillors and Representatives from Great Aycliffe Council, Durham County Council and Livin have been invited.

PANTO STARS ARE THE BEST MEDICINE



Young patients received a festive pick-me-up when North East panto stars paid them a surprise visit.

Milkshake the cow, Jill and Lucy D'Oolally from Jack and the Beanstalk called into the University Hospital of North Durham to spread some Christmas cheer.

The trio, who are appearing at the Gala Theatre, Durham, entertained patients in the Treetops children's ward with jokes and magic tricks.

Sheila Thompson, of the hospital's Treetops play team, said: "The visit brought a smile to everyone's faces and really put us in the mood for Christmas."

Jack and the Beanstalk, featuring the voice of Brian Blessed as the giant Blunderboar, runs until Saturday, 7 January.

Tickets for shows in January are still available. To book, visit the Gala box office, call 0191 332 4041 or go online at www.galadurham.co.uk

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FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS
Friday 23rd December - Christmas Issue
Deadline: Wednesday 21st December
Friday 6th January 2012 - New Year Issue
Deadline: Wednesday 4th January
Advertisements can be placed at our agents:
WALKERS at Simpasture,
NEWSFORCE in the Town Centre
or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk
Office Opening Times
Closing 3pm on Friday 23rd December
Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening
on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 at 8.30am

PUBLIC INVITED TO 'HAVE YOUR SAY' ON POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PRIORITIES

Durham Police Authority, Durham Constabulary and Community Safety Partners are inviting local residents and businesses in County Durham and Darlington to have their say on their top policing and community safety priorities for 2012/2013.

Mr Peter Thompson, Chair of Durham Police Authority said: "Representing the priorities of local communities is a core business activity for Durham Police Authority. We are undertaking this consultation in partnership with Durham Constabulary, The Darlington Community Safety Partnership and The Safe Durham Partnership, with the aim of capturing the information once to avoid the cost of duplication and using it to inform decision making processes".

"We want to reach as wide an audience as possible and understand that not everyone can attend the meetings we hold so are exploring other options to enable the public to provide us with their views". The Chief Constable, Jon Stoddart said:

"It's crucial that we inspire confidence in our communities by providing a policing service which reflects their needs and concerns. I would encourage as many people as possible to get involved in this survey so they can shape their policing service." Local people are asked to vote for their top three priorities out of the following list of seven priorities

1. REDUCING THE HARM caused by Organised Crime Groups: Organised crime can be described as two or more people involved in a network of criminal activity. Organised crime causes serious harm and fear to others by intimidation and violence

and groups may be involved in drug related crime, money laundering, metal theft, fraud, and importation of counterfeit goods.

2. PROTECTING COMMUNITIES from Terrorism and Extremism: Terrorism can be described as the use or threat of action where it involves serious violence against a person, serious damage to property or endangers a person's life to advance ideological causes. Examples: bomb threats/attacks, extremists and radical groups.

3. REDUCING THE IMPACT of Alcohol abuse on people and communities: Alcohol abuse has a range of harmful effects on communities. Examples are street drinking, public disorder, nuisance behaviour, rowdy behaviour, domestic abuse and can affect communities at all times of the day and night.

4. REDUCING THE IMPACT of Drug abuse on people and communities: Drug abuse has a range of harmful effects on communities. It can result in burglary and theft, public disorder, nuisance behaviour, rowdy behaviour, and can affect communities at all times of the day and night.

5. PROTECTING VULNERABLE people from harm: This involves tackling issues such as violent crime, domestic abuse, hate crime, sexual offences, young people who go missing, child protection, adult protection and anti-social behaviour.

6. SOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS with Partners: This would involve early intervention to deliver positive long term solutions on problems in specific localities that can have a negative impact on the lives

of residents.

7. TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR with Partners: Anti-Social Behaviour can be defined as any nuisance, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life. Examples: nuisance neighbours, vandalism, graffiti, rowdy behaviour, anti-social street drinking, littering.

The consultation will run until 1st December 2011. You can vote online (visit www.durham.police.uk), by text message People can also vote at the Area Action Partnership meeting.

To vote by text VOTE to 07786 027280 followed by your chosen 3 priorities from the list above, plus your postcode (your text should look like this example: VOTE 2,4,5, DH1 5UL).

To vote at the Area Action Partnership Forum meetings, which start at 6pm: Great Aycliffe & Middlesbrough, 22nd November, Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre, Burn Lane.

Xmas Party Fun At Dance Academy!



Aycliffe Dance Academy held their annual Christmas Party on Saturday 10th December for all of the children and parents at the dancing school. Many exciting things took place throughout the evening, such as a disco, competitions, tombolas, party games and an extra early gift from Santa!!! Everyone made a special effort and looked super smart in their party wear. Even the ADA staff dressed up as Christmas characters for the occasion.

Jill Saint, a parent from ADA, said: "It was a lovely evening for adults and children alike and to see the fun that the

children had, started the Christmas season off well . . . well done."

Kelsey Coulter, a parent said: "A fantastic family party, filled with the spirit of Christmas and fairy dust! Well done Emma and team, brilliant time had by all"

The winners of this term's Christmas Card Competition were announced at the party. The judges commented that all of the cards were 'festively fabulous' and after much deliberation decided on the winners, congratulations to:

Amy Errington, Anna Shorten, Charlotte Jenner, Elise Overend, Emily Trevor, Erin Towler, Katie Hardy, Libby Cooper, Lucy Murray and Ruby Hemmings-Duff for their creative cards. A huge well done to everyone who took part in this term's



competition; you all did extremely well!

Emma Cox, the Dance Principal of the Academy, would like to wish all of ADA's family and friends a

very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Picture: Boys and Girls from Aycliffe Dance Academy receiving their presents from Santa.

AYCLIFFE BACK TO WINNING WAYS

FIXTURES

Monday 26th December: Bishop Auckland (H), 1pm
Monday 2nd January: Stokesley (A), 3pm
Saturday 7th January: Jarrow Roofing (A), 3pm
Wednesday 11th January: Shildon (H) Durham Cup, 7.30pm
Saturday 14th January: Billingham Synthonia (A), 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe returned to winning ways as they eased to victory over Norton & Stockton Ancients last Saturday.

It was the Newtonians' first league victory for a month, ending a run of four games without a win.

Dan Mellanby's first of the season got the afternoon off to a great start for Allan Oliver's side, who added further goals from Josh Gray and Dale Jardine.

Matthew Garbutt got the visitors level in the first half but the Ancients rarely threatened Andrew Spence's goal on a bitter cold afternoon.

Mellanby's strike came as Aycliffe asked all the early questions, with the former Darlington forward firing home low from outside the area following Gray's pass.

Aycliffe's lead was short, as Norton equalised just seven minutes later with their first real showing on Spence's goal.

Garbutt cut in off the left wing, and saw his right-footed effort fortuitously lob up off the heels of Paul Broom and over Spence into the net. Nathan Mulligan bent a superb free-kick just wide after the half-hour mark but Aycliffe restored their lead with 38 minutes on the clock.

Broom's right-wing corner wasn't fully cleared and Josh Knox found Gray on the corner of the area, with the 20-year-old winger firing across 'keeper Stuart Newbold and in off the far post. Eight minutes into the second period Aycliffe stretched

their legs and in doing so got the cushion they needed to kill off the game.

Jardine, tireless all afternoon, chased a ball into the area and from the finest of angles, superbly fired low left-footed under Newbold and into the far corner of the Town-End goal.

Aycliffe gave a debut to Nathan Wilson off the bench late in the game, and he almost capped his bow with a goal, but saw his 25-yard free-kick hit the crossbar before going over.

Following the recent departures of midfielder Tom Portas, as well as forward trio of Glen Robson, Phil Robinson and Elliot Gardner, Oliver snapped up the former Sunderland reserve team player from West Auckland.

The Darlington-based dynamo was also a team-mate of current Newtonians' striker Ben Wood during the pair's tenure at Sunderland.

Team: Spence, Gibson, Peck, Tarling, Close, Craddock, Broom, Knox, Mellanby, Jardine, J Gray. Subs used: Wilson. Unused: Oliver, Owen, McMullen, Campbell. Star man: Dan Mellanby.

Aycliffe still have a limited number of tickets left for their Christmas Comedy Night on Thursday 29th December, when top female stand-up comedienne Sue Sweeney will join popular comic Terry Joyce at Aycliffe Sports Club for a double-bill of laughs. Tickets are just £15 each, and are available from John Gaskarth on 07590 925469, or email gaskarth@msn.com

FURNITURE SCHEME

The Furniture Scheme will be open at the following times during the holidays:
Saturday 24th December, 10.00am - 2.00pm.
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Targeting Olympic Scams

Residents in County Durham are being advised on how to avoid getting stung by scams targeting next year's Olympic Games.

Durham County Council's fair trading team is aiming to raise awareness about bogus tickets and merchandise associated with the London 2012 Olympics.

It is hoped that the campaign will help residents to steer clear of counterfeit sportswear and avoid online ticket scams which could prove costly. Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection said: "With the Olympics encouraging more people to take up sports, counterfeit sportswear may be on sale in shops, markets and on the internet.

These are generally poor quality items which do not represent value for money.

"Our staff will be carrying out checks on goods being offered for sale to protect consumers and legitimate traders around County Durham."

Cllr Bob Young, Cabinet Member for strategic environment added: "The

Olympics are a wonderful opportunity for County Durham residents to get involved in sport and get behind Team GB. We want people to enjoy the Olympics and avoid getting caught out by scams and fake ticketing websites."

There are a number of ways people can be vigilant against possible scams:

- Be wary of websites offering tickets to Olympic events. All ticket sales are provided through the London 2012 website or as part of a package through their authorised suppliers.

- Tips on spotting fake ticketing websites can be found by visiting www.directgov.uk and searching for 'Just Tick It'.

- To avoid bogus internet accommodation offers, check out the accommodation carefully before giving your credit or debit card details. Look for customer reviews and other write-ups on the internet and ensure the site provides a landline telephone number to ensure the business exists.

- Be wary of online bargain

sportswear, it may not be genuine and if so could be poor quality.

- For peace of mind and help finding websites selling genuine products, check out the Brand-I website - www.brand-i.org

- Advice and information on getting tickets for events, accommodation and official merchandise to help people plan for the games can be found on the official website www.london2012.com

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Christmas Wishes

Jacquie

at J&A Headstart
would like to wish all customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you all for the gifts and cards received.

We are closed on
Tuesday 3rd January and
Wednesday 4th January
for refurbishment.

Re-open on
Thursday 5th January

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

BEST WISHES for Christmas from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

TOMLINSON Ann and Tom wish family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Donation sent in lieu of cards to Cancer Research UK

DORIS CASSIDY and family would like to wish all their friends and family seasonal greetings and a prosperous 2012. Love you all. Doris and family xxx

EILEEN MEALE Wishes all her friends and neighbours of Watson Road a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

THE WINDOW GUY (Antwan) wishes all Newtonians a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MERRY Christmas and a Happy New Year to all my customers, past and present. Bill Lowery (Builder)

DIANE HURST and Family would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours a very, very Happy Christmas. Donation to Cancer Research instead. xxx

WHEATLEY, Bob and Liz would like to wish all friends and neighbours a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year xx

IAN & VALERIE PALMER would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours of Watson Road a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

LEDLEY - Becky and Adam. Have a lovely Christmas. Lots of love, Nana and Grandad xxxxx

HARRY Merry Christmas. Enjoy your first visit from Santa. Love, Uncle Dan xxx
CIIRS IVESON William and Malcolm, wish the people of Great Aycliffe a Happy and Peaceful Christmas

CIIRS SARAH Iveson and John Moran wish everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year

LONGSTAFF Pauline would like to wish all friends and family a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Charity donations in lieu of cards. Love you all, Pauline xxxxx

M.J. ALLEN (Decorator) thanks all customers, old and new and wishes them a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2012. (Tel 07973 544917)

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As Christmas dawns once again, without you it's not the same. No cards to send, no presents to give, just our love, sent to you in Heaven above. Merry Christmas Dennis - be happy. Lots of love from all of us. Miss you lots xxxx

MAUREEN MAWSON (Nichol). 14th August 1946 to 14th February 2009. Third Christmas without you. It's Christmastime once again, heavy heart, so filled with pain. No decorations upon the tree, no presents wrapped for you or me. Christmas day is not the same, greetings cards without your name. No tenderly holding you in my arms, no feeling of your loving charms. Tender kisses we no longer share, no more tomorrows for us to share. No Christmas dinner to cook or eat, Christmas days are so incomplete. No drinks to pour to bequeath a toast, it's you my love I miss the most. Soon Christmas is over, past and gone, true my love, you were my only one. My one and only love. Husband Derrick

CHENTRENS DENNIS 1924-2005. Christmas remembrance, time unfolds another year, but memories keep you ever near Dad. Always remembered, never forgotten. From your loving Daughters, Margaret, Doreen and Denise xxx

PAT FISK and Eleanor Featherstone. Missing you this Christmastime and always. Love, Tony, Susan, Michael and family xxx

JOHN REDHEAD I would give the world if I could say... "Merry Christmas Dad", to you today. Love, Joan xxx

EDITH KELL Merry Christmas Mam, just wish you could be here with us today. Love and miss you. Love, Robin, Judith, Ian, Lindy and Christine

EDITH KELL Merry Christmas Edith. Love and miss you so much. Your loving Husband, Bob

EDITH KEL Merry Christmas Nana. We all love and miss you so much. From all your Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxx

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We would like to offer a venue for people to come together and share their knowledge and skills with like-minded people. We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved in this exciting opportunity and be part of a craft group that met at regular intervals.

We can offer a warm and welcoming environment and the opportunity for artists and crafters to exhibit and sell their work. Refreshment facilities are also available and we are able to offer rooms during the daytime and in the evening.

For further information please contact Greenfield Community & Arts Centre Tel: 01325 379 048 Email: info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

KEEP YOUR NUMBER PLATE SECURE!

A spate of number plate thefts linked to fuel 'bilkings' has prompted police in East Durham to put vehicle owners and garages on alert. The number plates have been stolen from private vehicles in the Peterlee and Seaham areas. They have then been used on vehicles which have been filled up with large amounts of fuel by thieves who have driven off without paying. It's not only the vehicles which are being filled up with fuel - in one instance a

motorist filled a number of containers with petrol then drove off without paying.

"We've had ten of these incidents in East Durham in the last four weeks, five in the Peterlee and Seaham area and five in the Durham area," said Inspector Dave Coxon, from the Peterlee neighbourhood team.

"Some of the plates were stolen from cars parked outside people's homes, but we had one this week stolen from a car parked in a supermarket car park.

"It's a double edged theft, stealing the number plate in the first place then using it to steal fuel."

People are being reminded that they can fit number plates with tamper-proof screws which can be bought quite cheaply from automotive or hardware stores. Members of the public are also being asked to contact police if they see anyone tampering with a car number plate.

Local officers are also maintaining a list of the stolen plates, so that local garages can be circulated with the details.

"Everyone can have a part to play in curbing this crime," added Insp Coxon.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

County Councillor Dorothy Bowman wishes all the young children and young people in Newton Aycliffe a very Happy Christmas.

To all our young people in care throughout the County A very Happy Christmas and to all our dedicated carers, "Thank You".

To all the residents in Greenfield Middridge Ward a very Happy Christmas and thank you for your support during 2011.

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Annis Race, Grade 3 (Merit)
Anne Gatherar, Grade 4 (Merit)

Thank You

COLE Derrick and Lorraine. To the best Mam and Dad in the world. Thank you for everything you do for us! Love you loads, Linda, Lee, Tony and Vikki xxxx

JOHN MALONE (Jack) and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for cards and condolences received during their recent sad bereavement of Mary. Grateful thanks to Fr. Campion for a comforting Service, also all at St Marys Church. Special thanks to Bewick Crescent Surgery, District Nurses, Neville Parade Pharmacy, Cooperative Funeralcare, Sharron and Jean and the wonderful staff at Rose Lodge Care Home for their loving care of Mary and support to the family. Thank you all so much

Birthday Remembrance

RICK MILLER 22-12-76 Happy Birthday Dad! Miss you everyday, love you lots Titch xxx

NOEL NEEDHAM Birthday memories for 24th December 1930. Birthday memories are lovingly kept of one we loved and will never forget. Loved always, forget you never. Sheila and families xx

PAUL RAINE Bishop Auckland, 28th December. Love and miss you so much. Mam xxx

FOSTER-FARRELL Bryce Peter, 21st December 2001. Thinking of you on your birthday Son, with sadness in our hearts. For a very special someone from whom we had to part. Lots of love, Mammy and Daddy xx

FOSTER-FARRELL Bryce Peter. Happy birthday to our special Brother in the sky. Love, Jordan, Tia and Ethan xx
FOSTER-FARRELL Bryce Peter. Tears instead of wishes, flowers in stead of cards, you left us precious memories that will stay within our hearts. Lots of love, Nan and Grandad xx

FOSTER-FARRELL Bryce Peter. Birthday wishes sent today to a star in the sky not far away. Lots of love, Uncle Mally, Uncle Mark, Auntie Tracy, Auntie Rachel, Ashley, Ellie, Evie and Bobby

FOSTER-FARRELL Bryce Peter. Happy birthday Bryce. We send our love today and always. Auntie Pauline and Uncle Paul

FOSTER-FARRELL Bryce Peter. Happy 10th birthday to a special Great Grandson. Love always, Gran xx

EDITH KELL Happy birthday, love and miss you so much. Love from your loving Husband Bob and family, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren xxxx

In Memoriam

James Bernard McKay

12/2/1929 - 23/12/2006

Today brings tears and memories of sorrow and regret of a day filled with such sadness is not easy to forget. For everyone whose lives you touched has always loved you so and it was so hard to accept that you'd ever have to go and so this message is for you, especially to say, this world lost someone wonderful the day you went away. Miss you, your loving Wife, Heather xxxx

As each day dawns and starts anew and as each ends we think of you. And in between no matter where in our hearts you are always there. Your loving Daughter Heather and Grandson Christopher xxx

JIM NAYLOR 23rd December. I never knew when you went away, the pain would be so bad. So sleep in peace my darling Jim. Great Husband, Great Dad and Grandad. Loving Wife, Ann - until we meet again

LENA JACKSON 27-12-1987. After all these years Mam and Nana, you are still longed for every day. Special thoughts of Auntie June. Love, Debra, Geoff, Joel and Stevie Lena xxxx

WINIFRED HAYES 29th December 1999. This day is remembered and quietly kept, no words are needed we shall never forget. For those we love don't go away, they walk beside us ever day. Unseen and unheard, but always near, so loved, so missed, and very dear. Loved always. Stan, Patricia and family

THINKING OF you Mam, as always and special memories of Auntie June at this time of year. Love to you both from Linda, Gary, Amber and Jake xxx

McKAY James Bernard. 17/2/1929 to 23/12/2006. Another year has passed, they say time is a healer but that ache still lingers. You will always be missed Dad. Alicia xxx

McKAY James Bernard. Thinking of you Grandad. Especially at this time of year. Dean, Wayne and Ricky xxx

JOHN WILSON Died 22nd December 2002. Dearly loved Husband and Father. Remembered every day by Judith and Victoria xxx

NEWTON NEWS

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HARRY Happy 1st birthday. Love from Auntie Nicola, Uncle John and Cousins Tom, Becky and Adam xxx

VALERIE PALMER Happy birthday on 2nd January, hope you have a great day. Love Sarah-Jane and family xx

BEN BENNETT 31st December 2011. Happy 70th birthday Ben. Lots of love and best wishes from Kath xxx

BEN BENNETT 31st December 2011. Happy 70th birthday Dad. Have a lovely day. Love from Helen and Sandy xxx

BEN BENNETT 31st December 2011. To a special Grandad on your 70th birthday. Lots of love from Ben and Sam xxx

BENNY BENNET Best wishes on your 70th birthday. Love from Trish, Dave and family xxx

BENNETT 21st December 2011. Happy 70th birthday John. Love from Mary and family xxx

CHELSEA KELL Happy 18th birthday hun! Love from Mam and Dad xx

CHELSEA KELL Happy 18th birthday big Sis. Love from Dylan, Lauren and Nathan xx

JOE BARNES congratulations on your 18th birthday. Happy birthday, love and best wishes always. Gran and all the family xxx

SAMANTHA GIBSON 1st January. Happy 21st birthday. Have a lovely time. You are a lovely Granddaughter. Love you. Granda and Grandma Flack

SHARON ROSE Happy 50th birthday. Thinking of you on your special day. Lots of love, Mam, Barry, Audrey and kids

ROBINSON Stephan and Marie, hope you have a great day on 27th December. Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Mike, Lisa and David

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Obituary

Sean Cronin

Died 19th December 2011

It has been just 10 weeks since that terrible day, you got told you were ill. 10 weeks of pain for you, but now you are at peace my darling Sean. But now it's me who has the pain of losing you. My heart is broken, my life will never be the same without you. Good night, God bless, love you all the world. Till we meet again Sean. Yours always Karen x
Chanley is missing his walks with his Dad x
Will miss you always Sean. John, Danielle, Tony, Sarah and family x
We didn't have long with you Granda, but we love and miss you. Twins, Evie and Harry xx

Joe Barnes



Happy 18th Birthday
21st December 2011
All our love, Mam, Dad and Adam xxxx

Harry David West



To our beautiful Harry. Enjoy your first Christmas. Lots of love, Nana and Grandad xxx

Samantha Gibson



Happy 21st Sammi
Have a great day. Love you lots, Mam, Dad and Ross xxx
Have a lovely 21st Sammi. Love you loads, Big Granny and Granda xxx
Happy 21st Sammi. Love you lots. Auntie Joanne, Stewie, Lauren, Sophi, Luke and Ruby xxx

Jessica Pattinson



Happy 13th Birthday
23rd December 2011
"A Teenager at last"
Have a great day. Lots of love from Mam, Dad, Nana, Chris and all the family xxx

Congratulations

Craig Jackman



THE BIG 4-0
23rd December



Hope you have a great 40th birthday gorgeous. Love you always and all ways. Sarah-Jane xxxx

Craig Jackman



Happy 40th Birthday Dad
Lots of love and hugs from Madison and Mackenzie xxxx

Craig Jackman



Happy 40th Birthday
With love from Mum and Davy, Dad and Lesley, Jennie, Barrie and Rose, Simon, Mireille, Bryn and Aron, Bev, Dougie, Paul, Katy and James, Granddad, Donny and Chloe, Adam and all your family and friends xxxx

Holiday

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

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Zoe Rachel Skerrett



Happy 18th Birthday
26th December 2011
To a special Granddaughter. All our love today and always. Grandma and Grandad S xoxoxoxo

Zoe Rachel Skerrett



Happy 18th Birthday
Lots of love, Mum, Dad, James, and Grandma F xxxxxxx

Connor Patterson



Happy 10th Birthday
31st December 2011
Lots of love, Mam, Dad and family xxxx

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Aimee Ballantyne



Happy 7th Birthday Princess

Have a fab day and enjoy your party. Lots of love from Mammy and John-Paul xxx

Happy 7th Birthday to a wonderful Sister. Lots of love and kisses from Loren, Dylan and Kameron xxx

Hollie Langsley



Happy 18th Birthday
21st December 2011

All our love, Mam, Dad, Nycola, Emily, Gary, Nana and all the family. Hope New York makes up for 18 Christmas birthdays!

Hollie Langsley



Congratulations on your 18th birthday. All our love from Gran, Granda, Aunties, Uncles and Cousins - Enjoy New York !!! xxxx

Public Notice

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

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

AYCLIFFE RUNNER LOST BY 3 SECONDS



Gale force winds were no match for the gutsy performances put in by athletes from Shildon AC at Blaydon. The runners competed in the Start Fitness North East Harrier League, and the Under 15 boys and Ladies teams, maintaining their domination within the Grand Prix.

Henry Johnson (U15) from Aycliffe led his team around the twisting course, and showed how to tackle the numerous hills. He battled against Winkler from Morpeth who beat him by 3 secs on the line. Johnson's time was over 30 sec quicker than last year and he currently leads the Grand Prix U15 boys. Jake Findlay ran well in the fast pack, and crossed the line in 9th position in 9.51 only 21 sec behind Johnson. Joseph Bell continues to develop his speed endurance and finished the difficult course in 10.27 followed by Jack Wade with 12.54. Mathew Coulthard battled around the course to show that his stamina and hill training have paid off completing the route in 21.15 and 10th place over the line.

Dan Hardy ran with senior men, and although there appeared to be a record number of competitors, Dan ran through the masses like a knife through butter! His time of 29.39 placed him 9th over the line out of 420 men. The ladies and girls also enjoyed success with Lizzie Cramb, U13 running the 4th fastest time, with 11.36. Rosie Findlay U15, was 13th over the line with 11.34. The Under 17 girls continue to thrive on team spirit and Amy Etherington ran an amazing race to finish first over the line despite a 2 min handicap for competing in fast pack. She romped

around the course to cross the line 30 sec ahead of 2nd place, in 16.41. Zoe Hewitson was hard on her heels and just lost a little ground towards the end to finish 3rd with 17.29.

Etherington and Hewitson are placed 5th and 4th respectively with 3 cross countries to go in the Harrier League. Elizabeth Wood finished 4th U20 in 19.42 and Natalie Owens finished in 23.37. The ladies are leading the Grand Prix Teams with 19 points with second place, Gateshead with 32 points. Shildon Running & Athletic Club is open to anyone from the age of 8 upwards. If anyone is interested in joining the club please come along for a free try-out session.

For details please check out our website, www.shildonrunning.co.uk for nights and times to suit your age group. Please call 07592611600 or e-mail; secretary@shildonrunning.co.uk

Xmas & New Year Quizzes

With tickets at only £2.00 per person, per night, (money raised provides prizes) and a free hot meat sandwich with roast potatoes for all ticket holders served at 8.00pm, what better way could there be to end - or start! - your Christmas or New Year's Eve?

Quizzes commence at 8.30pm. Spot prizes during the night. Tickets available from the bar or for further information, contact Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 01325-300600.

LOCAL SPORT

More Local Sport Inside

Team Thanks Sponsors



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre AFC under 8's Falcons wish to thank TR Fastenings for sponsoring the team. The team are very grateful and would like to thank Phillip Hall for keeping in touch and offering a helping hand with team fundraising. The Falcons are a new team and are progressing really well in the short time they have been together. Most of the players have come through the club development programme run by Peter Robinson. With help from experienced coach Craig Buist and parents chipping in (Carl Edwards and Kyley Smalls), we have a good set up and are enjoying the challenge of league football.

Any children who would like to come along and train are more than welcome to attend. Contact details can be found on the club website www.naycafc.co.uk

Loss of Fitness Instructor Counterproductive

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that from the 23rd December 2011 due to the withdrawal of Mrs Rachael Hall, there will be no dedicated fitness instructor to look after the G.P. referrals who attend the gyms both at Aycliffe and Shildon. This situation is unsatisfactory, and could result in both a loss of income for the gyms and perhaps danger for the attendees.

At the moment Rachael Hall greets every new potential attendee with a smile which settles them down straight away, she gathers information about illnesses and injuries and medication. She then sets a programme for them and takes them around each machine assessing what the attendee is capable of and writing a program making sure that they do not do too much. She works with them throughout the 12 weeks and is very attentive to all of their needs.

No matter what level you are at she improves it and if you are off for a session she rings you at home to find what the problem is, and sees if she can help. She is well aware of every attendee's level and problems, and goes round conversing with everyone. When she has gone in the New Year there will be no one who will take the same interest and care of the attendees. As for financial matters, Fit for Life will lose a lot of potential memberships, because Rachael encourages people to join the gym on completion of their 12 week initial period.

I am aware of, at least 12 people (G.P. Referrals, this is at Aycliffe only) joining since April this year, and at around

£200 per year per person that is a lot of money. I know money is tight and cuts are to be expected, but one member of staff in this area has already been cut and therefore it is wrong to cut the only other one, especially when Rachael only works a total of 9 hours per week split between the two gyms.

I believe that the G.P. referrals are getting a rough deal if this cut goes ahead, and numbers will dwindle, but perhaps this is what is wanted.

I ask Fit for Life to look at this situation again, and give the G.P. referrals the service they need.

V. Burke

FOOTBALLER LEADS ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOPS

SUNDERLAND FC legend Gary Bennett has helped to deliver a number of anti-racism workshops in the County thanks to local council funding.

Michelle Postma, Shildon and Newton Aycliffe Extended Schools Co-ordinator, raised in excess of £6,000 to finance more than 20 workshops involving hundreds of children in the area.

Bennett, along with other ex-professional football players and education workers from Show Racism the Red Card, delivered the sessions along with fun, football fitness sessions to young people aged from nine to 16.

The former Sunderland star, who played more than 400 games for the Black Cats between 1984 and 1995, endured horrific racism in football in the 80s. Now he educates young people through SRTRC, an anti-racist charity which harnesses the role model status of professional footballers.

"Unfortunately our work is never done," said Bennett, who also played and managed Darlington and who now works as a pundit for BBC Newcastle. Although racism isn't as bad as it was when I first started playing football, it continues to exist, in life generally as well as in sport, and we can't afford to be complacent about it.

"We try to educate children from a young age and openly discuss stereotypical views surrounding racism."

As part of the workshops, young people took part in question and answer sessions as well as coaching sessions with SRTRC's professional football coaches.

"We always get tremendous feedback from youngsters," added Bennett. Some are shocked to hear what we have to say and, in turn, we continue to be surprised by some of the stereotypical views of some young people."

Michelle Postma added: "Show Racism's work is commendable and we've found young people gain a lot from what they have to offer, both in terms of getting the



anti-racism message across as well as their fun coaching sessions. We're delighted with the workshops and look forward to working with SRTRC again in the future."

College, St John's and Timothy Hackworth primary schools, all in Shildon, as well as Greenfield Community College, Woodham Technology College and Sugar Hill, St Mary's, Byerley Park and St Francis primary schools in Newton Aycliffe.

Oak Leaf Bike Winner



Following the Oak Leaf Sports Complex coaching courses in October, and after a slight delay, lucky bike winner Thomas Hodgson is seen here being presented with his prize by Mayor, Cllr Mary Dalton. Thomas assures us his prize was worth waiting for!

BENGAL LOUNGE

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