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## Aycliffe's Constituency Boundary Submission Rejected

### Town Split Gives Us Two M.P.'s!

On 16th October, the Boundaries Commission published their revised report on constituency reorganisation and I'm afraid I have to report we have failed to influence them, and Aycliffe is recommended to be split. If you read page 30 of the report (at <http://bit.ly/SNaARepor>) you will see that I got half-a-page considering my case, but it was rejected. Consequently, as we feared, most of Aycliffe, west of Westmorland Way/Burnhill Way will be in Bishop Auckland constituency; and the rest of Aycliffe will be in

'Stockton North and Aycliffe' constituency. You can see the resultant map at <http://bit.ly/SNaAMap>. People will be working on the figures to see what it will mean for the political vote. In terms of numbers, Aycliffe will constitute about a fifth of the voters in the new Stockton North and Aycliffe constituency. The 4,000 Aycliffe people in Bishop Auckland constituency will constitute about a twentieth of the electorate. It is arguable that this will be good for Aycliffe - we will have two MPs representing us.

Remember that the Lib-Dems have reasserted that they will vote against the Boundaries Commission proposals (as a tit-for-tat for the failure of their Lords proposals) so it is more-than-likely that these proposals will never become law. I find it disappointing that the new County Council ward divisions, which contradict the Commissioners' arguments, will be in place (May 2013) BEFORE parliament considers the new constituency boundaries... and yet the Commissioners have still seen fit to go with the old ward boundary and split Aycliffe between two constituencies. It reinforces my view that the reorganisation is not about the needs of communities, but simply reducing us to numbers. They are inviting comment and you can reply online at <http://bit.ly/SNaAReply> or email them at: [northeast@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:northeast@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk) Counc. John D Clare Great Aycliffe Town Council

## Charity "Big Knit" at Greenfield College



Children had a fantastic time last week, knitting away on Wednesday night with some families to create knitted monsters! Using bright yellow needles, or giant needles, we had a great time learning this fantastic skill. This "learn to knit" session was part of family learning month at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre. If you missed our session, don't worry, on Wednesday 24th October from 5pm till 8pm we are having a "Charity Big Knit" night, where we will be knitting squares for charity. If you are a champion knitter,

a beginner or someone who wants to learn to knit, join us for tea, biscuits and lots of knitting! We will be using double knitting yarn and 4mm needles - we will have a few on hand but bring your own if you have them. The squares we will be knitting on the night will be sent to "Knit a Square" a charity supporting AIDS orphans in Africa. If you would like more information, or to donate some squares, contact us on 01325 379048, or email [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk).

## POLICE WARNING OF INDECENT EXPOSURE

Parents are asked to warn their children about a man in his forties who exposed himself to five young girls near Vane Road School on Wednesday, 10th October around 8.45am. The offender had short black spikey hair, possibly wearing small black rimmed glasses and a black V-neck jumper and blue jeans. He was driving a small dark coloured VW car. The Police have been informed and are patrolling schools in the town. If you have any information on a black car roaming the streets please ring the Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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## Halloween Family Face Painting

Halloween is slowly creeping up on us and to mark this and Family Learning Month – here at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre, we are having a FREE Family Face Painting session on Monday 22nd October, 5pm-6.30pm. You'll learn not only to face paint, but to apply lots of Halloween special effects too, such as fake blood and gore! Do you dare?!

To book a place or to find out more information about family learning month – or our half term activities; please contact us: 01325 379048 or email us: www.greenfield-arts.co.uk

## Who Deserves a 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 or organisations that have 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 Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) are 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 the Chairman, Linda Marshall, JP, will be holding a ceremony in February 2013 to award chosen individuals for voluntary effort or outstanding charitable organisations. Cllr Marshall is asking for nominations which can be assessed and put forward to the presentation event on

February 22 next year. There will be 14 winners this year, representing all AAP areas across the county. The Chairman is working with the AAPs to find people and organisations that have gone above and beyond to make a difference. Cllr Marshall 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. I am keen also to try and enhance this event through making links with the recent Jubilee, Olympic and Paralympic celebrations and events this year. The deadline for nominations is 4 January 2013. Completed forms should be sent to the Chairman's Office, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF. For more information log on to: www.durham.gov.uk/aap, Email: chairmansoffice@durham.gov.uk or call 0191 372 5298.

## Thankful for ChildLine and CRB's

Dear Sir,  
I visited my late parents many times in Western Australia. and during that time was struck by how respectable newspapers there openly discussed the 'feet of clay' possessed by many in British Society.

These were not sensationalist headlines to grab the attention at the news stand, rather articles tucked away inside the supplements. We in this country are only privy to a fraction of the reality with reference to the personal lives of some very important people; who are far more powerful and influential than a disgraced D.J..

Press in this country do adhere to a code of self censorship, regulation and responsible reporting, contrary to some of the revelations that have come out of the Leveson Inquiry. Whatever the conclusions of Lord Leveson, his recommendations must not be allowed to fetter the Press in its pursuit and legitimate questioning of alleged

abusers such as Jimmy Saville.

Many will ask, if he was a serial paedophile - how was he able to get away with it for so long during his life time – with only death unlocking the door to his supposed secret dark side? Yet, I know from experience - during the 1960's and '70s – when a close family member was being abused by her stepfather, that even when the abuser is confronted, the victim was often by then cowed, ridiculed, full of self-guilt and simply not believed. Back in those days the wider Society closed its eyes and ears to such things, so we must be thankful for the

advent of ChildLine, as well as legislation (CRB checks) to prevent those with an unhealthy interest in our children having access to them.

On this occasion we must also applaud the part the Press is playing in exposing those with feet of clay. Derek George Atkinson Denham Place

## THE IRON HORSE

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**Free Halloween Parties**  
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**Karaoke Disco**  
Saturday 27th October, 7-11pm

**Children's Party**  
Sunday 28th October, 2-4pm

## THE TURBINIA

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**Saturday 20th October - "ELENBAK"**

"We do covers by the likes of Bad Company, Free, Sabbath, Poison, Brian Adams, Eurythmics and many more".  
Review - "Elenbak: What a bunch of fighters these guys are! Back again after previously strong showings in past BOTBs, Elenbak return with yet more melody driven and insanely catchy soft rock. More new material in their excellently delivered set, but still it's the wonderful 'Samantha' that gets under your skin and refuses to be ignored - a summertime hit single if ever I heard one. Partnered to familiar favourite 'In This World' these are two great songs that really show the quality running through this band. Closing with a triumphant 'Someday' you have to believe that there is a cracking AOR album in this band just begging to be unleashed."

**Friday 26th October - "SAK TOONS"**  
Show of the Month - See advert opposite

**Saturday 27th October - "TOMMY & THE ODDBALLS"**

Massive on the Bike Rally Circuit, always first band booked for to 'Heart n Soul'  
Recent reviews from Toon Rock Pages 'Awesome band, as ever they played absolutely brilliantly. Tommy as fantastic as ever (THE best frontman in the north east, bar none, the man is an inspiration, a legend), Jeff playing goosebump sales on 'Hey Joe'.  
'I can't believe how good they were. It was like walking into a pub, full of your best mates with the best goddam juke box you could hope for. Every member of the band is a really good and talented player. The timing was great, the entertainment value was great too. The audience (well packed) loved it from the off.'  
'They are a superb band, prob THE BEST in the North East, period!'  
Tracks covered by The Who, Bryan Adams, Thin Lizzy, Free, Hendrix, Stones, Bad Company, Kings of Leon and much, much more. Should be one of THE GIGS of the year, DON'T MISS IT!!  
www.tommyandtheoddballs.website.orange.co.uk

**Saturday 3rd November - "1 0 1"**

We are pleased to welcome back one of the Tabs favourite bands, who play a great mix of modern and classic rock. Tracks covered by Led Zeppelin, Killers, AC/DC, Kings of Leon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Kiss, Chiefs, Nirvana, Razzlight, Pink Floyd, Green Day.  
Davys Rock Page Review: 'All in all, a great night with a great atmosphere and a lot of people dancing, so if you want to hear newer covers with a good mix of older rock 1 0 1 deliver.'

For more information on bands go to  
**www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034**  
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## Family History Course at Woodham Centre



David Sutton-Lloyd shows local genealogist Margaret Hedley of pastuncovered.co.uk local history depicted on the Woodham Village Community Centre Mural

Woodham Village Community Centre, with the support of the Workers Education Association, and the GAMP Area Action Partnership as part of it's Championing Community Learning, is to run a series of workshops on how to research your family history. Starting on Wednesday 24th October from 2pm to 4pm - the first week is a coffee/tea session to enrol and find out more. Wed 31st Oct: How to research your Victorian Ancestors. Wed 7th Nov: Research women's roles in Pit Villages. Wed 14th Nov: Research history of Aycliffe. Wed 21st/28th Nov: General research. The six week course costs £22, however some price concessions are available. Telephone David on 316144 for more information and to book a place on what is going to be a very popular course.

## The SKA-TOONS

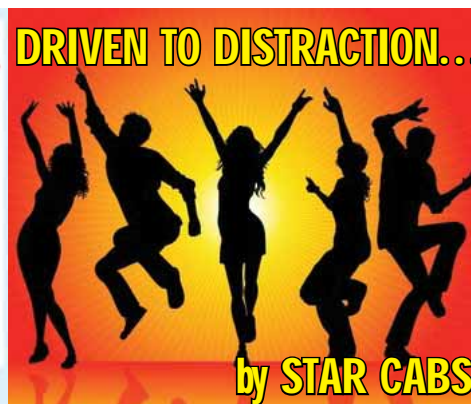
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# Ofsted's "Good" News for Greenfield College

Greenfield Community College received a visit from four Ofsted Inspectors on 3rd and 4th October. Their report was given to students and their parents/carers this week. with the school judged to be GOOD - a high attainment. David Priestley, Headteacher commented "We know

parents/carers will be delighted with the report. There has been much talk in the press over the summer of how standards of inspection are being raised, we are pleased that inspectors were able to see the good job we continue to do with all our students".



Inspectors recognised that students at Greenfield make good progress and that examinations results have improved in recent years. This year saw record results at Greenfield with 96% of students achieving 5 A\*-C grades 55% gained 5A\*-C including English and Maths while 27% achieved the Government flagship EBacc qualification. Inspectors judged that teaching is typically good and sometimes outstanding. Inadequate teaching has been eradicated. The school have developed new approaches to teaching and learning over the last year that have ensured that all students benefit from a wide range of teaching styles. Ofsted said students are very positive about the school

and their attendance is good. They behave well in class and around the school. Students feel safe and bullying is rare. Greenfield was recently awarded the Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF and continue to hold the Anti Bullying Accreditation awarded by NSPCC and ChildLine. The curriculum, together with Greenfield's extensive range of extracurricular activities, makes a strong contribution to students achievement. The commitment to the wider community continues to be a high priority. The most recent innovation has been the introduction of Time4Success which Inspectors saw as a key feature in developing all students' potential. Ofsted affirmed that the school is very well led, school leaders including the governing body are rigorous in monitoring all areas of the school's work including students' progress and the quality of teaching. "We are very pleased with the report that recognises the achievements of our whole school community" said Chair of Governors, Mrs Lesley Wilson. The report will be published in full on the Ofsted website next week when anyone will be able to read the details.

## Bus Service Meeting

A meeting is called for 24th October at 6pm at the Evangelical Church Ladybower off Meadowfield Way to discuss the removal of bus service on Peace Way, Meadowfield Way, Greenfield Way to Cobblers Hall. The Arriva management have indicated they will attend, so it is important as many people as possible from this area attend this meeting to put your views forward. Cllr Dorothy Bowman.

## Credit Union is Moving

The town's Credit Union is moving to the former Leonard's Electrical shop near Boyes in the Town Centre. Come along and join, save with us for Christmas or next year's holiday - you won't regret it! We are open every Tuesday Market Day from 11am - 12 noon.

## Youngsters Help Victim of A.S.B.

Dear Sir,  
My I express my utmost thanks and appreciation to the young gentleman and his friends who on the evening of Tuesday, 9th October at around 9pm came to my rescue. My house had been stoned by youths and after I took off up the road chasing them I suffered an asthma and panic attack which raised my heart rate. He and his pals came to my aid and stayed with me till the police and ambulance arrived. He then reassured my daughter that I would be ok. Unfortunately I didn't get his name but I do know that he and his friends were on their way home from playing sports at Greenfield school, I think it was 5-a-side football. I thank these young lads from the bottom of my heart. Suzie Howells

## AYCLIFFE MOVIEDOME

Fancy a trip to the cinema? The MovieDome at St Elizabeth's Church hall, Woodham have great pleasure in inviting you to a Matinee showing of the Oscar Winning Film starring Meryl Streep about a Prime Minister loved and hated. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided, BYO Popcorn! Tickets £3-proceeds for new hymn books and music. Film starts 2pm on Sunday 21st October.

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## Halloween Horror at PCP

A free Halloween themed family arts session will be taking place on Tuesday 30 October 10-12noon at the Pioneering Care Centre. This 'Spooky Fun' class will involve Halloween based crafts such as card making, mask designs and spooky decorations. The PCP currently run a weekly family arts session on a Saturday morning 10am-12pm. The programme is called 'Colour your Life' and encourages all ages to get creative. The weekly classes are packed with easy, fun projects and activities such as painting, sculpture, graffiti and dance, allowing youngsters to express themselves in a



variety of ways. The sessions are free and children attending must be under eleven years old and accompanied by an adult. To book onto the session or for any queries please ring the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234 or email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net.

## TAX RETURN GETTING YOU DOWN?

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Manager: Carol Woods **01740 620683**  
Manager: Kerry Dixon **01388 834161**  
Manager: Vicky Hutchinson **01325 315623**  
Manager: Natalie Richardson **01740 651224**  
*\*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding*



## AAP SMALL GRANTS FUND HELPS PCP EDUCATION CENTRE

Great Aycliffe and Middlesbrough Partnership (GAMP) has given a local education centre for children with Down Syndrome a boost thanks to a £1,000 grant.

The charity was established over six years ago and recently re-located to the Pioneering Care Centre at Newton Aycliffe due to expansion. The aim of the centre is to provide a space to enhance the development of children with Down Syndrome, offering individual learning programmes to each child and advice and training to their carers.

The group offers pre-school

and school aged groups, parent and carer training and a grandparent group.

Brian Riley, GAMP coordinator, said: "A key priority for GAMP is to help support the local community and voluntary sector. The support given to the centre will help fund their running costs and allow them to provide a valuable service." The cash has been donated from the GAMP Small Grants Fund, managed on behalf of the GAMP by CAVOS.

GAMP is one of 14 Area Action Partnerships set up by Durham County Council in 2009 to help the authority better engage with residents.

## HELP FOR PRIVATE FOSTER PARENTS

Do you know someone caring for someone else's child? Durham County Council is urging people to come forward with private fostering arrangements to help families get the help and support available to them. Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (or 18 if they are disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a close relative. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and carer, for 28 days or more.

Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts.

Legally, people in a private fostering arrangement need to inform Durham County Council as the local authority. For more information log on to [www.durham.gov.uk/privatefostering](http://www.durham.gov.uk/privatefostering) and to inform the council of a private fostering arrangement call: 0845 850 5010.

## Dated, Engaged and Married on 6th October



Newtonian Hannah Underwood met her future husband Sam Timmons at Leeds Festival in 2007 and their first date was in Paris on the 6th October. This was Hannah's favourite place, having completed part of her history degree course in the French capital.

Paris became even more special when Sam proposed to her on the 6th October under the Eiffel Tower on a subsequent visit in 2010.

The couple were married at Whinbrook Hall, Sheffield on 6th October 2012. The Bridesmaids were Vikki and Sophie Fawcett, Keira Underwood and the Best Man was Sam's sister Heather Timmons.

It is no surprise the couple spent the first part of their honeymoon in Paris before travelling to St. Lucia. They both work for HSBC Bank in Sheffield where they will begin their married life.

## CHAIR BASED EXERCISE FOR THE ELDERLY

A free taster session for a new 12 week chair based exercise course will take place on Thursday 25th October at 10am at the Youth Centre, Newton Aycliffe (opposite Tesco's).

It is part of a falls prevention programme to help the older adult stay healthy and independent with the emphasis being on improving balance and co-ordination to reduce the risk of falling.

A 12 week course will be starting in November for more information call Liz or Trish from the Falls Prevention Team on 0191 3839750

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## Do you have a Pension?

*... but it's not going to be nearly enough because of the recent crash on the stock markets*

You've read about the pension crisis and now you've heard that pensions are being cut and you know that when you retire your pension will no longer be sufficient to cover even the basics, let alone those holidays you've been saving for all your working life.

But you do have some spare time and you are prepared to do something about it, you're just not sure what.

You'd like to increase your income now but you also need to build up a better retirement pot to supplement what's already there.

**What you need to do right now is speak to someone who understands your concerns and can give you some really effective and simple ideas on how to create an income while you are still working in your present job.**

**Call Anthony now on 01325 730553 or 07803 430897 quoting PP65**



## Cubby News

Dear Sir,  
Through your newspaper I would like to thank the following people; Christine, Julie and Sheila, who made it possible for The Cubby (a charity), to raise £100 for Macmillan Cancer Research Coffee Morning. Without their help it wouldn't have been possible so Thank you to all!

I am pleased to announce that after being on Maternity Leave, our kitchen manager Sally Symons will be returning to The Cubby as of Tuesday 23rd October. Bill Blenkinsopp.

## GIRLS GROUP NEED HELP

The girls group at Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre are taking part in an Animal Welfare Awareness Project. The girls have created Christmas hampers for the Cats Protection League and the Dogs Trust and would be grateful for any donations: of small tins of food, biscuits, blankets, toys etc. All donations can be handed into the Youth Centre on Burn Lane (opposite Tesco's) at the reception desk. Thank you.

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Closing Date: Monday 12 November 2012 - 12 noon

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## Redworth Hall Charity Night

The Northern Citrines Jazz Band are holding their annual Charity Night at Redworth Hall. Don't miss this fantastic fundraising soul night with the superb Susan from 'Boney M' and the amazing Glynn 'Mr Soul' on 9th February 2013, from 7:30pm-11:00pm. Tickets are £10 in advance only - no tickets available on the night (first come first served basis)

The amazing Mr Soul will provide you with songs from the past that will keep you dancing all night, from Barry White, Lionel Richie, Luther Vandross, John Holt and many more. Susan will take you back in time with her hits such as Daddy Cool, Brown Girl in the Ring and many more. It's a night not to be missed! Please contact Martin for tickets on 01388 778181. E-mail: [northerncitrines@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:northerncitrines@yahoo.co.uk)

## Greenfield College Says Thank You



It was heart-warming to see so many parents, carers and young people turn out on a cool autumnal night for the school's open evening. Thank you.

Once again, Headteacher, David Priestley was able to proudly talk about record results and our future plans to build on success and reach for the stars.

The evening began with some

amazing demonstrations of skills developed by our young people in our wide ranging and exciting performing arts and sports curriculums. The confidence, self-discipline and talent exhibited by the students couldn't help but impress everyone in the audience.

However, Open Evening at Greenfield is not about 'show time' it is about welcoming all visitors into the school and inviting them to go wherever they wish, ask whatever they like and meet all of the staff and many, many students as they work together and demonstrate what this highly successful school has to offer.

Moving from department to department parents, carers and their children were able to enjoy poetry slams, pyrotechnic science displays, mathematical puzzles and challenges, opportunities to try out their artistic talents, a quick session on the drums, creating designs for tasty muffins (and then eating them) and much, much more.

The sports facilities were heaving with dynamic groups bounding on trampolines, demonstrating tactics and using the all-weather facilities to their maximum potential.

Some visitors formed part of the tour groups, led by the leadership team while those who preferred to wander by themselves, mapped their own routes and visited areas which most interested them.

And of course, no visit to school is complete without an opportunity to sample school dinners! School dinners, you exclaim? Yes, but not how you remember. Vegetable curry was the order of the night along with just a small sample of the delicious food that fuels our students every day.

So, thank you everyone. We had great fun and were proud to share out school with you. However, if you were not able to attend but would like to, it isn't too late. Just pick up the phone (01325 300378) and we will happily organise your visit.

## FUNERAL SERVICE EXPANDS INTO NEWTON AYCLIFFE

A DARLINGTON funeral director has taken a lease on premises in Newton Aycliffe to improve its service to bereaved families.

Whitehouse Funeral Service has moved into Surtees House, at Hilton Road, after a long search for accommodation was resolved by Property Consultants Carver Commercial, of Darlington.

The new premises will be run alongside Whitehouse Funeral Service's head office at Cockerton House, West Auckland Road, Darlington.

Director John Whitehouse said: "We had been looking for premises in Newton Aycliffe for some time in order to offer our growing number of clients in the town a more local service but we had been unable to

find premises suitable for our needs.

It is important for families to know that their nearest and dearest are being offered a very high standard of care as close as is possible to their homes at times of bereavement.

"We have had an excellent relationship with Carver Commercial for several years and they have helped us to identify other buildings in the past. They introduced us to Surtees House, which offers an ideal location for our funeral parlour.

Julie Wallin, of Carver, said: "We have worked with Whitehouse Funeral Service on a number of occasions and have a good rapport. I think we understand their very specific needs and are able to identify properties

that are likely to be suitable for the sensitive service they provide.

"The premises were previously occupied by our clients On Tap Heating who originally purchased the property through ourselves some years ago. We were able to assist in gaining the necessary planning consents for a funeral parlour and smooth the way for the new lease."

Funeral Director Bryan Shepherd will be based at Newton Aycliffe, supported by staff from Darlington, but the company expects two new jobs will be created in the future.

John Whitehouse said: "One shouldn't really celebrate an upturn in our business because it comes with sadness for the families involved but we have been made very welcome in Newton Aycliffe and both the number of funerals we help to organise and our volume of pre-paid funeral plans, set up in association with Golden Charter, have increased since we moved into the town."

Whitehouse Funeral Service can be contacted on 482999 (Darlington) or 318600 (Newton Aycliffe).

## Woodham Girl Opens Salon at Hall Garth



Sian Thompson from Woodham opened her new Salon at Hall Garth last month, offering a service to guests, leisure members and the general public.

Using the latest Matrix colours and products Sian is offering cutting, colouring, permanent hair straightening and bridal packages.

Located within the beauty spa at the hotel the Salon offers relaxing, tranquil surroundings with a professional service, tailored to you as an individual.

Sian offers 20% off your first visit. Leisure members receive 15% discount.

October Offer: Full head of foil, hi lights including cut and blow dry for only £50!

Opening hours: Tues/Wed: 10am-2pm, Thursday: 10am-8pm; Friday: 10am-6pm and Saturday 9am-4pm.

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### GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Wednesday 31st October 2012**

## Council Meeting 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](http://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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## GREENFIELD GAIN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

On Friday 5th October Greenfield Community College were asked to share their current practice with the other winners of the full International Schools Award recognised by the British Council.

56 schools from across the North East were in attendance to receive their prestigious award and the delegates were entertained with a DVD depicting the 19 international projects that Greenfield College is currently undertaking.

Assistant headteacher Stuart Dixon said the work has enabled children at the college to become more outward looking individuals who are keen to explore the world around them.

Mr Dixon also spoke about working in partnership and how the links forged with schools in this country as well as those further afield is a real benefit to the school and has impacted on improvements in attainment and standards.

The college has been approached to share their international experiences with schools new to international work, through Durham Education Authority.

The delegates were also entertained by the chief starter for the Olympic and Paralympic games, Alan Bell who shared many accounts of his travels around the globe starting international athletic events.

This included a fabulous tale about the time that Mr Bell had to disqualify the world's fastest man Usain Bolt.



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## WOODHAM ACADEMY LAUNCH PHONE APP

Woodham Academy has released a comprehensive and free iPhone / iPod touch app. Designed to run on Apple's latest operating system, iOS6, the app provides parents and students with access to essential school information no matter where they are.

With two taps parents can view term dates, parents' evening dates, school concerts details, the school's latest news, the school's latest Ofsted report, a school map and use the interactive contact details.

Students can also access key dates along with a timetable builder, homework planner, house competition details, PCC dates and the school's virtual learning environment, Moodle, where students can upload homework and read teacher feedback directly on their phone!

Associate Assistant Headteacher, Darren Smith, said "I am delighted with the release of the school's iPhone App. Not many schools in the country have an app despite the number of smart phones around. I am thrilled to see that our app sets the bar for the rest of the country to follow. The next task is to get my GCSE Computer Scientists to create a version for Android phones!"

To get the free app on your iPhone or iPod touch you can simply search for Woodham in the app store on your device. Your device will require iOS6 to be installed although Woodham are adding compatibility for older Apple operating systems in the very near future.



## 3,000 Mile Trek for Charity

Alasdair and Sarah Fowler crossed into Canada on 4th October, 2012, having spent 163 days on the Pacific Crest Trail. Alasdair is a former student at Greenfield School and Sarah, is from Darlington.

They set out from the Mexican border on 24th April carrying tent, provisions, much needed water and, for much of the journey, bear canisters to protect their food.

The trek took them through the Mojave Desert, over the Sierra Nevada mountains and along the volcanoes of the Cascade mountains (California, Oregon and Washington state).

The official distance of the trail is 2650 miles but with diversions for resupply, forest fires and other natural hazards, the total distance walked will be close to 3000 miles.

This also involved an ascent of 363,000 feet, which included a diversion to climb Mt. Whitney (the highest point in the lower 48 states). This is equivalent to climbing Everest every two weeks!

They encountered much wildlife including rattlesnakes, bobcat, coyote, deer, birds of prey and very close encounters with black bears! On one occasion about ten feet away. Ali and Sarah have tried to describe the incredible beauty of the mountains, meadows and forests which has more than made up for the hardships of intense heat and cold, snow, difficult river crossings and physical discomfort.

Both have worn out several pairs of footwear and clothes have been in tatters due to constant wear.

Alasdair and Sarah have commented often on the incredible kindness of people along the trail, giving them food and drink when they have arrived at towns for food supplies.

They have made life-long friends with others who



started the trek at the same time, and though many have dropped out of the trek for various reasons, they have all supported each other. They have commented that this is how life should be. The couple gave up their home in Newcastle and put

their careers on hold to be able to do this trek.

They are fundraising for the charity The Peoples Kitchen (providing food and clothing for the homeless) in Newcastle. Please help by donating via <http://www.justgiving.com/bearandboy>

## Storytelling Sessions at Silverdale

Responding to an appeal in Newton News Olivia Angus has volunteered as a 'Childrens' Storyteller at Silverdale Community Centre.

Olivia will be reading stories to children of all ages at sessions held each Thursday after school at 4.30pm.

Olivia who lives in Woodham sends out a warm invitation to children to join her for an hour at the Centre. Parents who wish to accompany their children are welcome too!



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### Brafferton Close, Woodham Village

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The accommodation briefly comprises of ENTRANCE HALL, W.C., LOUNGE/ DINING ROOM, KITCHEN fitted with a range of wall and floor units and CONSERVATORY. Whilst to the first floor there are THREE BEDROOMS and FAMILY BATHROOM. Externally to the rear of the property there is a GARDEN and PATIO AREA, whilst to the front of the property there is also a GARDEN and DRIVE leading to a GARAGE. Viewing Recommended. No Chain.



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### Beechfield

#### Newton Aycliffe

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## Free Soup, Dessert and Film for Pensioners

On Wednesday 7th November Neville Community Centre have a special free treat for those on State Pension only.

You can come along and enjoy home-made soup and a bun followed by dessert, then watch a film. To book your place ring 313924.

If you can volunteer to help with the soup please get in touch on the same number.

We are trying to arrange for a specialist advisor to come along and speak to Pensioners who may be entitled to further benefits. Watch out for the date in Newton News.

Tables can be booked now for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 24th November from 10am-3pm. Please note this is for new goods and tables are £5.

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### Hawthorne Drive Newton Aycliffe

4 bedroomed modern detached house in pleasant situation, unfurnished with carpets, some blinds, fitted appliances & fitted robes. Hall, downstairs WC, fitted breakfast kitchen, lounge with modern feature fireplace & French doors to garden, adjoining dining room with glazed doors into lounge, family room, 3 double & 1 single bedroom, family bathroom/WC, en suite shower/WC. Gas CH, gardens with decking, parking. Rent £750 pcm

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### Dixon Road Newton Aycliffe

2 bedroomed 2nd floor flat within walking distance of town centre, unfurnished with carpets, blinds, cooker & fridge freezer. Hall, fitted breakfast kitchen, lounge/ diner, 2 double bedrooms, shower room/WC. Gas CH (included in rent). Rent £450 pcm (including CH)



### Belford Way Newton Aycliffe

Modernised 2 bedroomed detached bungalow, unfurnished, recently refurbished & in good condition. Entrance hall, lounge/ diner with feature stove-effect gas fire, fitted kitchen, inner hall, bathroom/WC with overhead shower, 1 double & 1 single bedroom, conservatory. Gas CH, front & rear gardens (rear South-facing), parking. Rent £525 pcm



### Eskdale Place Newton Aycliffe

3 bedroomed end terraced house, unfurnished with carpets. Hall, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, lounge/ diner joined by archway with feature fireplace & patio doors, 2 double & 1 decent single bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, yard with built in sheds. Rent £475 pcm



### Thirlemere Road Ferryhill

Mature 1 bedroomed semi-detached bungalow, fully furnished & equipped. Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower. Gas CH, front & rear gardens. Rent £400 pcm.

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## Replica Locomotive Engine Stolen

Police are investigating the theft of a Bittern steam locomotive engine between 13-14th October. The replica "sit on" locomotive, approximately 3-4ft in length, was stolen from a vehicle parked in Aysgarth Close, Newton Aycliffe.

It is described as follows: Bittern replica "sit on" steam locomotive engine, number 4464. Engraved plate on front of both sides with Bittern Replica on the locomotive body and 4464 on each of the locomotive doors.

Boiler number ME463/03 is stamped on the bottom of the back head. It is also "CE" stamped. Wheel configuration 4-6-2.

Lubricator on the right hand side. Front lamps on both sides but one of these came



off when being removed from the car and was left in situ.

Regulator handle, steam controls extended on universal joints. Tender has decal transfers on both sides in gold that read NE.

The engine is made of metal and would have required two people to carry it. It is worth several thousand pounds but may have been stolen for scrap.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Durham Police on 101 and ask for PC Katherine Lawrence at Newton Aycliffe.

## Fantastic Support for "Girls Night In" at Xcel Centre

The ladies of Newton Aycliffe came out in force for the third annual Girls Night In at Xcel Centre on Wednesday 10th October.

Ally & Emma from 'Get Set Kids' want to thank everyone for supporting this event once again. The evening was filled with entertainment from Xcel Dancers, Debenhams Middlesbrough a fashion show, singer Steve Soaker, Durham Wildcats basketball team and over 40 local businesses had stalls.

Watch this space for details of the next Get Set Kids event which will be a bit different – a school disco for grown ups!



## Girl Guides Unit Lose Their Flag

Lindsey Wilkinson runs the 3rd Newton (St Clare's) Guide Unit, which reopened in January 2012, after having

been closed for many years. The unit is rapidly growing, having already doubled in size since opening, but we have a problem which we are hoping Newton News readers can help us with.

In the time that the unit was closed, our flag has been lost and despite much searching, cannot be found. The Guides Parade is held at St Clare's church each month and we are having to borrow a flag from another unit at the moment.

To get a new one made would be very expensive, and as a new unit, we don't have the funds for this. We would prefer to find the unit's original flag as it is part of our history so we are appealing to anyone who may have information regarding its whereabouts.

We would really like to find it before Remembrance Sunday as we won't be able to borrow the other one as it will be needed for its own unit to parade.

Lindsey Wilkinson, Guide Leader.

## Old Songs

Dear Sir,  
As a boy I used to annoy my parents and neighbours with my out of tune singing of latest pop songs and my home became known as "The House of the Why Sing Son"! Looking back on my collection of records I have renamed other popular songs: "You really gut me" by Aycliffe Angling Club; "Magical Mystery Tour" by Aycliffe Bus Preservation Society (also known as "Bussy Riot"); "You will always find me in the kitchen at the Cubby" by The Bill Blenkinsopp Four featuring Roy Cubby Brown; "Neville Community Centre Forever" by the Beatles.

Yours in laughter  
Honest John

## BUS STOPS A LONG WAY FROM HOME

Dear Sir,

I have strong objections to the letter in last week's issue regarding the bus service that no longer serves Greenfield and Alston Crescent.

Our nearest bus stop is Byerly Park or at Horndale. Has the correspondent ever tried to carry bags of shopping from either of these stops to Greenfield area at 71 years of age?

He should also know that not everyone has access to the Internet or the knowledge to use it!

Mrs. E.



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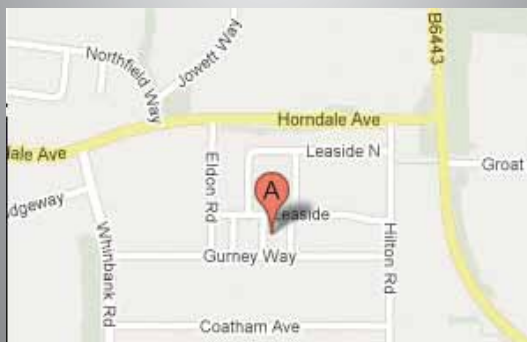
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## HOTEL'S ASIAN WEDDING FAIR OPEN TO ALL

The Hall Garth Hotel is one of the North's Premier Asian Wedding Fair Venues, with many families travelling from around the country to attend this extravagant event. A dedicated Asian Wedding Fair is on Sunday 21st October from 12-4pm, where people can come along and meet suppliers for their special day. The Fair is free and open to all couple's not just the Asian community, so come along and see what is happening. There are over 30 stalls and the Fair is being filmed for TV.

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## TOWN COUNCIL FUNDING SAVES CAB SERVICE

Back in March 2012, it was reported that Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau had no choice but to axe all of its outreach sessions and reduce the number of sessions in the Newton Aycliffe Bureau due to significant reductions in funding for 2012/13.

The once weekly drop in session has seen a demand that has been difficult to cope with, and many clients did not receive the advice they needed. Therefore, Sedgefield & District CAB were extremely grateful when funding for additional appointments was received from Great Aycliffe Town Council.

The money received allows the CAB to help over 300 more clients this year and train 3 new volunteers from the local area as advisers who will work from the Newton Aycliffe Office.

Pauline Chambers, Chief Executive of the Bureau, said "As an advice service we understand that times are really difficult for people right now but our team of dedicated staff and volunteers are doing everything they can to continue to provide the much needed advice service. To help do this we have introduced a telephone gateway line which operates Monday to Friday each week. Our gateway assessors will diagnose a person's problem and will then either send out the relevant information that the client needs or when appropriate, make them an appointment with the relevant case-worker.

You can contact the Telephone Gateway Service on **01388 825429** Monday to Thursday 10am - 3pm and Friday 10am - 1pm. However If you prefer to speak to someone face to face then you can do this at our drop in gateway session which takes place on Tuesdays 10am - 1pm at our offices in the Pioneering Care Centre at Cobblers Hall. CAB continues to offer

free debt advice so if you are getting behind with repayments, or unmanageable debts, contact us for an appointment with one of our specialist debt workers.

Why go to a fee charging agency that keeps more of your money than you are repaying on your debts? Get the advice you need completely free of charge.

If you are not at the stage of having unmanageable debts but perhaps are expecting a change of circumstances which may mean you may struggle to manage your money in future, ask to be referred to our Money Advisor. She can give information

and guidance on a wide variety of issues: pensions, tax, budgeting, utility tariffs, savings, benefits, bank accounts, in fact anything finance related. Again this can be accessed by calling into the drop in session or calling the gateway telephone number.

The start of this year was very difficult for us in terms of having to reduce services but thanks to the help from Great Aycliffe Town Council we have been able to continue to help more of those in need. We know we speak on behalf of the many people in Newton Aycliffe who have used this service and thank them for their support. Donna Stewart

## BIKE IT BREAKFAST AT VILLAGE SCHOOL



A number of pupils from Aycliffe Village School went on a bike ride with their Head Teacher Mr Gargan and a member of Sustrans called Rio. All the children brought their bikes into school early in the morning and were given a 'free' breakfast to set them on their way. During the morning Rio checked the bikes to make sure they were safe.

The ride started at 1pm when children prepared for their ride with helmet and hi-visibility jackets. Their ride took them past Linde Castle, The Gretna and up towards Woodham.

Photographs of the event were taken by Sustrans whilst en route. Naryse Cox commented to her friend Emba Cairns "I love this bike ride as it gives us lot of exercise."

At about 3.10pm the children returned to the school quite exhausted from their experience but they found the day fun and would like to do this again. So the class would like all children to

take up the chance if offered in the future, as it's good for your health and a lot of fun! By Naryse Cox

## FREE FITNESS SESSIONS AT WOODHAM ON SATURDAY MORNINGS

Jules Baxter, a Personal Wellness Coach in Newton Aycliffe plans to promote a healthier, active lifestyle within the Community by holding FREE fitness sessions from 10-11am every Saturday morning starting on November 3rd 2012.

The Fitclub sessions will be held at Woodham Community Centre, St Elizabeth's Close Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4UE.

"These free sessions aim to be friendly, sociable and are suitable for anyone at any level of fitness and age," said Jules. "My first session was a 'Wellness Walk' which I arranged for after my Weight Loss and Wellness Challenge that I hold on a Thursday evening. The walk was popular but I want something on a weekend so we can exercise outside (weather permitting!)"

"All people need to do is to come along with a bottle of water and a great attitude." Jules is concerned about the number of people who are totally sedentary and who are overweight - it's my mission to help them! "I want to give something back to the community," said Jules. "We may not be able to turn people into Olympians, but we can certainly help get them into better shape and feel better about themselves."

Jules also runs the Arriba Community Wellness & Weight Loss Challenge at Agnew Community Centre on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm and will be available at the every Fitclub session to talk to people about nutrition, healthy eating and having a more active lifestyle.

You can contact Jules on 07966 968388 for details and to book your free place.

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# NEW COLLECTION SCHEME BOOSTS RECYCLING RATES

The amount of material collected for recycling in County Durham has increased by 34 per cent since the introduction of a new collection system.

Durham County Council began alternate weekly collections of waste and recycling earlier this year, and early indications show the amount being recycled has already increased significantly. The new system, which had already been running in the former Derwentside area for a number of years, was introduced in the north of the county in April before being rolled out across the south, east and central areas over the following months.

Figures show that between April and July, householders in County Durham recycled 3,965 extra tonnes – the equivalent of 793 extra lorry-loads – compared to same period last year.

Based on this increase, the authority is expecting a five per cent increase in the proportion of waste recycled. This means that at the end of 2012/13, residents are expected to have recycled more than 48 per cent of their waste.

As part of the changes, almost 190,000 homes received new recycling bins for storing paper, card, plastics, tins, cans, aerosols and cartons. Glass bottles and jars are still placed in the recycling box for collection.

The council is now appealing to



residents to check that they are putting the correct items into their recycling bins and boxes.

Cllr Brian Stephens, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for neighbourhoods and local partnerships, said: "We would like to thank everyone for all their help in making the change to the new system. The vast majority of residents are using their bins and boxes without any problem and we are extremely pleased with the resulting increase in recycling levels."

"However, there are a small number of residents placing nappies, food, pet waste and other non-recyclable items into their recycling bins. These should be put in the rubbish bin. "Putting the wrong items in your recycling bin reduces the value of the materials collected. Someone will have to remove it by hand at the recycling plant

and then it will be sent to landfill, which means the council has to pay to dispose of it."

Last year, the council paid more than £7.5m in Landfill Tax, with every tonne of rubbish it sent to landfill costing about £100.

Over the next three months, the authority will be trying to raise awareness of what can be recycled and where different types of waste and recycling should be placed.

In areas where contamination is most common, stickers will be placed on bins reminding residents not to put items such as nappies, food leftovers, pet waste and garden waste into their recycling bin. Leaflets outlining 'what goes where' will also be delivered through letterboxes.

For a guide to what can be recycled, visit [www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere](http://www.durham.gov.uk/whatgoeswhere)

## Sending Information via Newton News Website

A number of readers are using our website to send in stories and information for which we are most grateful.

We wish to encourage this and hope more readers will contact us by this method, but please be sure to authenticate your message by adding an e-mail address or telephone number. Just like sending in an article to Newton News we cannot accept anonymous letters and there must be a contact point for us to verify the information received.

## Roots New Look Salon

**Roots Hairdressers in the Leisure Centre have refurbished their Salon to create an exciting indulgent atmosphere.**

**The long established town business give a first class service at reasonable prices employing only the most experienced and skilled stylists and beauticians.**

**"We are really proud of our staff and their achievements some of whom are hairdressing teachers and assessors. Call in for a cup of coffee and see what we can offer you" said owner Keith Bailey.**

# NEWTONIANS SUPPORT REGIONAL FLU CAMPAIGN

Newton Aycliffe mum, Sarah Lister is supporting this year's regional flu vaccination campaign by urging pregnant women to protect their babies and themselves this winter.

Sarah, 27, who lives with partner Simon in the town, was five-months pregnant when she had her flu jab last year.

Sarah and seven-month-old Mary, joined Team GB Paralympic Team Captain Stephen Miller and north east NHS 'Flu Safe Squad' to launch this year's flu vaccination awareness campaign in Newcastle.

As part of the campaign, the 'Flu Safe Squad' will take to the streets of the region to spread the message about the annual FREE flu jab which could save the lives of over 800,000 north easterners who are at serious risk from flu this winter.

The vaccine is available now from GP surgeries and is free on the NHS to eligible people to keep them safe during winter. All those at risk are being urged by the NHS to get the vaccine now and not to wait until there is flu outbreak.

The flu jab is safe, and it can't give you flu. It is particularly important that children with serious underlying conditions get the flu jab as they are at higher risk complications with flu.

People who need the free flu jab include: People aged 65 years or over.



All pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season).

People of all ages with a serious medical condition such as Long term severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis

Long-term heart disease, such as heart failure

Long term kidney disease and liver disease

Long term neurological disease, such as Parkinson's or motor neurone disease

Diabetes

A weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)

People living in long stay residential care homes

People who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose

welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

Don't wait until there is a flu outbreak this winter: contact your GP practice now to get your seasonal flu jab.

## Wheelchair Mishap

Dear Sir,  
I would like to sincerely thank the three gentlemen who came to my wife's aid last Saturday morning when she was thrown from her wheelchair.

This occurred due to uneven road surfaces at the junction of Pease Way and Stephenson Way.

Your concern and attention is very much appreciated.  
Ralph Osmond

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# SPORTS STARS AT THE BIG CLUB CHARITY EVENT

The Big Club plays host to another great Sportsman's Evening on Friday 2nd November to raise funds for charities: "Leukaemia and Lymphoma" and "Just Say Yes". Speakers are former Rangers and Scotland International goalkeeper Andy Goram and his good friend and former BDO World Darts Champion Andy "the Viking" Fordham. The evening is hosted by Steve Walls. Goram is best known for his time at Rangers, where he accumulated 5 league titles in 286 appearances. He was also capped 43 times for his country.

In the twilight of his career he received a surprise phone call to go and sign on loan for Manchester United. He swore the phone call was a wind up from his long time friend Ally McCoist and almost cost himself the move before realising that he really was speaking to Sir Alex.

He was labelled by Sir Alex Ferguson as "Scotland's best ever goal keeper" who then added he was "glad he had him for three months and not



seven years as he'd have been the end of me!"

Fordham, best known for his weight and nickname of "the Viking" which was bestowed on him by Bobby George due to his height and long hair, reached his career peak in 2004 where he became Champion beating Mervin King 6-3 after defeating pre tournament favourite Raymond Van Barneveld in the semi final.

He freely admits that due to his nerve settling excessive drinking, prior to matches,

he cannot even remember the most important game in his career.

Not only will you get to hear great stories and watch the Viking in action, you will get to the opportunity to bid of many pieces of signed sporting memorabilia in our auction. We have signed items from England 2012 squad, Newcastle, Sunderland and Manchester United.

Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research is the only UK charity solely dedicated to research into blood cancers, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. The Newton Aycliffe fund raising arm is known as the Banana Army, they have been busy organising and raising funds through various events throughout the North East and recently took part in the Great North Run.

"Just Say Yes" is a fundraising initiative which started in Newton Aycliffe after the tragic death of a local teenager Mark Bulman from cancer in 2010. His inspirational fight and thirst for life in the aftermath of his diagnosis led him to try and experience everything he had wanted to. "Just Say Yes" was born as a result of this and raises funds which are donated to the two Newcastle Hospitals which treated him so well.

We are hoping to raise a good sum of money for each of these charities so why not join us, enjoy the night and even have the chance to throw some darts against the Viking!

Tickets cost just £20 each, to enquire and book tickets please contact Michael Rippon on 0789 1507278.

# LIVIN BUILD MORE HOMES FOR RENT IN AYCLIFFE

Home and communities organisation, livin, is strengthening its already successful partnership with construction and development specialist Southdale to build new homes on four sites across South Durham.

Having completed eight two-bedroom homes in Baliol Road, Newton Aycliffe and six at Clarence Chare in the town, as part of its first contract for livin, Darlington-based Southdale has now started work on new developments, which have a combined contract value of more than £3m.

livin is working with Southdale to build 13 houses and two bungalows in Sycamore Road, Fishburn. Meanwhile, in Neile Road, Newton Aycliffe, a further three bungalows will be developed.

Nine two and three-bedroom houses will be built in Thirlmere Road, Ferryhill, while a further six are to be developed in Pease Way, Newton Aycliffe.

The contracts are part of livin's £11.6m investment programme for new homes across the South Durham area and it is expected that all homes will be available early 2013 and will be offered at an affordable rent.

Wayne Harris, executive director at livin, said: "Meeting housing demand for local communities is one of our main objectives and



Trudie McCormick of Southdale (left) with Wayne Harris of livin

working with Southdale we can also help stimulate the local economy by providing employment and training opportunities locally."

Trudie McCormick, Southdale's North East regional director, said: "The homes we built in Baliol Road were our first for livin, so we are very pleased to continue our valued partnering relationship with livin on these four further contracts to help deliver their investment programme. "We are looking forward to building upon our early work in South Durham and our growing relationship with livin."

For further information about the properties or how to apply for a home contact livin's

home choice team on 0800 587 4538 or visit livin.co.uk.

# AROMA MYSTERY

Dear Sir,  
I hope your readers can help me. For the last eighteen months or longer I have noticed a very pleasant smell in the air.

I live in Aycliffe Village and experience this phenomenon about twice a month. The aroma is bergamot or something very similar. I assume it comes from some factory process or deodorising treatment but I would be very interested to discover the cause.

Thanks in anticipation. Lynne Editor:

*The smell you describe is no mystery to villagers and probably comes from the Sewage Works across the A167 from where you live. It is a deodorant and used to disguise the smell which periodically has to be released.*

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# CALLING MEN TO HELP CREATE OUTDOOR AREA FOR GREENFIELD

Greenfield College are asking men to give some time to help create a new outdoor area. To inspire and provide an opportunity for new skills, we are arranging a trip to The Stone Festival in Barnard Castle. The Festival is contractors, architects, sculptors and artists working and demonstrating skills. There is a "have a go" part and demonstrations will be at Bowes Museum on Monday 22nd October.

We will be leaving Greenfield Community and Arts Centre at 8.45am and there are several places available to local men on a first-come-first-served basis. Please contact the Centre if you are interested in this free visit or would like to get involved with our "hands on" project: [info@greenfield-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@greenfield-arts.co.uk); 379 048

# TUESDAY NIGHT QUIZ

Looking for something different to do on Tuesday Evening? Oak Leaf Sports Complex could have the ANSWER!

Tuesday night is quiz night, the fun starts at 9.00pm in the bar, it's only 50p per person to enter. Whether your strength is general knowledge, film & television, sport or the picture round come along and try your luck. For something a little different our music round comprises of video clips on the large screen T.V. You could win cash prizes, drinks vouchers or spot prizes. Why not make a night of it and have a meal from our extensive menu.

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# Warriors Visit Italy



Last weekend the Woodham Warriors American Football team from Woodham Academy flew out to Sicily to play at the Sigonella US Navy Base. This was the Warriors third game since September against American High School opposition. Arriving on Friday in Sicily, the Woodham students were able to take in the sights of Sicily before travelling to the US Navy base on Saturday morning for their game

against the Sigonella Jaguars. The Sigonella team boasted American students who lived on the base from American states such as Texas, Mississippi, California and Florida. The game began with the Sigonella team being led across the Navy base and onto the field by a police and fire engine escort flanked by three Harley Davidsons, together with sirens blazing and engines roaring. This was

then followed by the national anthems on the field – quite a sight for our home grown local students. With the high Mediterranean temperatures and a small travelling squad, the Warriors struggled to cope with the Jaguars power and experience throughout the first half, but fought back into the game to finish with a highly respectable 38-14 defeat at the end of the game. Warriors highlight of the game came via an 81 yard touchdown run by offensive MVP Chris Armstrong which continued his streak of scoring in every game against the American High Schools. Warriors head coach and assistant head teacher at Woodham Academy, Jon Tait commented “This has been another amazing experience for our students. To have the opportunity through our Sports Academy to come and play in Europe at US Army and Navy bases would have been beyond our wildest dreams twelve months ago. However, the connections that we have now built up are now beginning to really make a difference to the lives of the young people in this area.” Woodham have now completed their schedule for 2012 and are eagerly awaiting the start of the British league again in 2013 for the chance to go one better than they have done in the last three British Finals and also the chance to compete in the American High School league once again in the Autumn.

# What Now For Aycliffe FC?

*Come on, let's be havin' ya...*

It would be easy to point the finger and ask serious questions after Aycliffe's season sank to a new low last Saturday. Defeat against Esh Winning – so-called lesser opposition who are doing alright in the second division – signalled the end of another FA Vase campaign, and compounded what's already been a thoroughly miserable season. It is difficult to remain upbeat, and the Aycliffe media team has just about run out of positive spin now, but when you're staring adversity in the face like this, togetherness is a basic requirement. We can all be guilty of jumping the gun, at times; football is a passionate game, and poor results can provoke kneejerk reactions – just ask Darlo fans. But the true character of a club is in how you deal with ill-fortune. It's easy to celebrate winning a league – sipping champagne out of the Northern League second division cup just 18 months ago was indeed a memorable moment – but when you've hit a height, and arguably gone as high as you can in the current climate, it is difficult to rally the troops when you're in descent. Taking a sensible, objective look at Aycliffe's problems and, more to the point, their rapid recent success, there are several potential contributions towards their current predicament – and maybe it's a bit of all of them.

## TOO FAR, TOO SOON?

Rather than building gradually, perhaps their surge up the football pyramid system was all too much, too soon. But we weren't complaining when Sean Tarling and Dan Mellanby were lifting that Northern League second division trophy back in April 2011, were we?

You could argue Aycliffe over-achieved in 2011-12 – punched above their weight – and this is just a reality check. The club is used to winning and enjoying success – experiencing the lows is a very different ball game.

## Losing key players

You could argue Aycliffe have lost too many key players – namely Elliot Gardner, Ben Wood and Warren Byrne – who haven't been replaced, but replacing those players was a job in itself.

## Poor start

You could argue Aycliffe's early FA Cup demise played a significant part in their poor league campaign – a win at Holker Old Boys in that midweek replay back in August would have made for a very different build-up to the opening league game at Marske United.

## Poor business backing

You could argue Aycliffe just doesn't warrant a Division One club. The core of fans remain and gates are still decent, and while support from some firms is good, generally speaking the local business support is chronically bad. This is, arguably, the club's biggest Achilles heel.

## STRONGER LEAGUE

The league is much stronger this season than it was last. Even without the obvious addition of Darlington, other clubs have budgets far superior to Aycliffe's – I refer to my point about business support – meaning they get the better players, because as much as we love the Northern League for its “grass roots”, players are semi-professional, and money

## talks.

You can definitely say that at least some of the above have all contributed towards Aycliffe's slide in fortunes, but what is the answer?

First and foremost, the management team will leave no stone unturned in trying to solve the problems, in trying to galvanise the troops, in trying to get that elusive result that could kick-start their season. But if, for whatever reason, Aycliffe can't turn it around, it wouldn't be for the want of trying.

The boss, Allan Oliver, is one of very few volunteer managers in the Northern League – in fact, he has put his own money into the club's coffers to keep it afloat. The fact he doesn't crow about it – and asks us not to – says a lot about him.

The Chairman and assistant manager, Gary Farley, is also a volunteer and spends endless hours organising things, watching games, taking training, preparing for matchdays. He doesn't get a penny.

## UNSUNG HEROES

New coach, Dan Mellanby, will only have a positive impact on the players as he begins a promising coaching career, and the management committee – the grafters

behind-the-scenes, the “unsung heroes” – they help make the club tick. The club's fantastic supporters keep them all going by turning out every week.

As long as these key people remain involved, there will always be a club. Players will come and go, and the level of football may change from time-to-time, but as long as the backbone of the club is in place – as well as the core of players such as Darren Craddock and Sean Tarling – it'll always be on a sound footing.

What Aycliffe need now is a big show of support. Supporting your club is as much about experiencing the lows as it is about celebrating the highs, so when it comes to the good times, you can say “I'm there through thick-and-thin”.

Billingham Synthonia come to Moore Lane Park this Saturday. Aycliffe have opened the gates to give the Under-12s free admission with a full-paying adult (thanks to Newton Press), in an attempt to connect with the town's younger football fans.

The club also need their older ones to re-connect with them if they're to stand any chance of avoiding relegation from the first division.

Come on, let's be havin' ya...

## FIXTURES

Saturday 20th October: Billingham Synthonia (H) 3pm  
Tuesday 23rd October: Sunderland RCA (A) 7.30pm  
Saturday 27th October: Whitley Bay (A) 3pm  
Wednesday 31st October: Spennymoor (H) 7.30pm  
Saturday 3rd November: West Auckland (H) 3pm

# AUTUMN FOOTBALL SESSIONS IN AYCLIFFE

Football training sessions are being held in leisure centres across County Durham during the autumn. The sessions, organised by Durham County Council, include Micro Soccer for younger children aged 3 to 5 years and On the Ball junior football coaching for 5 to 14 year olds (upper age limit depending on venue).

The courses, which cost £2.50 for one hour and £4.00 for two hours, are aimed at helping youngsters – including the most inexperienced players – to learn football skills and build their confidence in a fun and exciting environment.

Football skills training sessions are being held throughout the autumn at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, 5-11 years, Mondays, 4.30pm-5.30pm. Durham County Council's Neil Trainor, who co-ordinates the On the Ball sessions, said: “Junior skills coaching is an excellent way to improve your football talents or learn new techniques, whilst enjoying time with friends.

All coaches are qualified to a minimum of FA Level 2 in Football Coaching and each week there will be a range of fun contests to get involved with including the cross bar challenge and target shoot outs.”

Further information is available by contacting Durham County Council on 03000 266 442 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/ontheball



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**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

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**WHITE HOUSE FARM** Boarding Kennels and Cattery. Bolam, Near Darlington (off A68) DL2 2UP. Tel: 01388 832 635.

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# Council Assist with Bin Collections

A council is getting in touch with people who receive help to put out their bins and boxes for collection as part of a project to update its records. Durham County Council's assisted collection service is available to householders where all residents aged over 16 are unable to move their wheeled bins or recycling box to the collection point because of ill health, infirmity or

disability. It is several years since the list of those receiving the service was updated so the council is now contacting households to check if their circumstances have changed and whether they still require assistance. Oliver Sherratt, Durham County Council's head of direct services, said: "This is an important service, which provides help to vulnerable residents."

"The work to update records will ensure it continues to help those who need it."

"The process has been kept as simple as possible, with residents on the list able to contact us in a variety of ways."

More than 13,100 residents who applied for assistance before January 2012 will receive a letter and a form to fill in confirming whether they still need the service.

Residents can also complete the form online by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/assistedcollections](http://www.durham.gov.uk/assistedcollections)

Letters will be sent out in stages between 8th October and 1st March 2013. Anyone who knows or cares for someone who currently receives assistance with their bins is asked to look out for the letter and ensure the form is completed and returned.

# CARERS' VIEWS MATTER

Carers from across County Durham are being urged to share their views on how looking after someone else has affected the way they live their own life.

During October Durham County Council will be contacting carers who have been in touch with its adult, social care service in the last 12 months.

A carer is defined as someone who looks after a partner, family member or friend in need of support because of frailty, a physical or learning disability, a mental health problem, substance misuse or illness.

The council wants to improve the support provided to carers in County Durham and feels it is important to gather people's views. In particular the council is keen to hear about the quality of life for carers and how caring for somebody may have affected it.

This is a national survey which more than 150 councils in England will be carrying out on behalf of the Department of Health.

Locally, the survey will allow the council to compare itself to other councils across the country while nationally it will feed in to a wider picture.

Results of the survey will be available on the council's website at: [www.durham.gov.uk](http://www.durham.gov.uk) or for more information email: [usersurveys@durham.gov.uk](mailto:usersurveys@durham.gov.uk)

The council is urging anyone who receives a questionnaire to fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

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Top Academic Student  
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Greenfield Art Award  
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All winners are chosen by teachers.



# COUNTY DURHAM STUDENTS BUCK NATIONAL TREND

Durham County Council is once again celebrating an overall improvement in GCSE results.

2012 is the tenth year that County Durham has seen an increase in pass rates, confirming the quality of education in the county's schools.

62 per cent of pupils achieved five or more A\* to C grades, including English and maths, at GCSE. This represents a two per cent increase on the results in 2011, which were above the national average.

70 per cent of pupils achieved at least a C grade in English, which is particularly noteworthy when set against the national backdrop this year.

In mathematics, 69 per cent

achieved A\* to C grades. Results in both subjects are an improvement on the 2011 figures, which were themselves already above the national average.

Pupils at 23 of the 34 County Durham schools exceeded last year's national average of 57 per cent for the proportion gaining five or more A\* to C grades, including English and maths.

11 out of that 34 schools gained results of 70 per cent or more.

Caroline O'Neill, head of education at Durham County Council, said: "I am delighted with these results. The improvement in the results is a direct result of the effort and determination of pupils, staff, parents and governors

across County Durham.

"They all deserve their significant successes and we heartily congratulate them.

"It is fantastic that so many more young people will have the opportunity to continue into further education with all that means for their life chances."

## In Memoriam

**WENDY QUINTON** In memory of a very special lady, Wendy Quinton, 10/7/1946 to 18/10/11. A loving and much loved Wife of Husband Bob; Mother of Mandy and Faye; Mother in Law to Duncan and Gary; Doting Nana to Bethany, Hannah and Adam. Sadly missed. May you rest in eternal peace xxx

**HARRIET BRUMWELL** Died 18th October 1993. Our memories still remain, they help a little with the pain. God bless. Love, Jeannette, Owen and Carl

## Birthday Remembrance

**CHRISTOPHER JAMES ELLIOTT** 25th October. It's your birthday again, just wish you were here so I could say "Happy Birthday". Love, Betty

**MENA CLISH** (Burrell). Thinking of you on your birthday Mena. But that's nothing new, for no day dawns and no day ends without a thought of you. Sisters Theresa, Sophia and Brother Steve xxxxx

**MENA CLISH** (Burrell). No cards we can give, only our love as long as we live. We miss you more every day Mena. Brother Steve and Sandra xxx

**ALF SAXBY** 18th October 1927. Thinking of you on this special day. Love and miss you always. Love, Wife Eileen and family xxx

**BILL TALBOT** It would have been your birthday on 21st October. If I could have one wish, it would be that I could give you a hug and say happy birthday to you. I miss you lots. Love, Val xxx

**BILL TALBOT** Happy birthday to my special Dad/Grandad. Miss you and love you forever. Deb, Tim, Sophie and Katie xxxxx

## Good Luck

### Good Luck on Sunday S.A.F.C.



From Aycliffe's No: 1 Fan's  
BULLY, SESS, BUSHY and RAMBO

## Thank You

### Jacob and Indigo



Thank you, Alex

**BARION** The family of the late Florence (Flo) wish to express their sincere thanks to relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown to us during our recent sad bereavement and for the many cards and donations to Macmillan Cancer Support and the Butterwick Hospice. Also, many thanks to Bewick Crescent Surgery, District Nurses and Carers for all their help; Rev Martin King for his comforting Service and Bryan Shepherd and staff of Whitehouse Funeral Services for their guidance and support.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to the very honest lady from Marshall Road who found my mobile in the taxi on Saturday night, by her phoning the taxi company and leaving her name and address so I could go and get it. Thank you very much, Sheila xxx

**THANKS TO** Graeme Ford from "Elite Vision" for sorting out my Sky box and TV. Highly recommended. P. Barron

## Catering

**CRAFTY CAKES** For any occasion, cakes made and iced or just iced. Tel 316 084

## Obituary

### BRENDAN BIRMINGHAM

of School Aycliffe suddenly in hospital on 10th October aged 58 years. Beloved Husband of Susan; Loving Son of Joan and the late John; Brother to Caroline and Lesley; Also Son-in-Law, Brother-in-Law and Uncle. Family and friends please meet for Service at St Marys RC Church, Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday 23rd October for 3pm. Followed by Cremation at Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if so desired to ITU 1 Darlington Memorial Hospital.

**JOAN HUGHES** Rest in peace dear friend. We will miss you. Love, Jill, David, Martin, Julie, Glyn and families

**JOAN HUGHES** Newton Aycliffe, in hospital on 11th October, aged 71 years. Beloved Wife of Brian; Loving Mam of Mark and Susan. Friends please meet for Service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Wednesday 24th October at 1.15pm. All welcome for refreshments afterwards. Floral tributes gratefully accepted or donations in lieu if so desired to Darlington Memorial Hospital ITU Trust Fund

## For Sale

**BARGAIN BUYS** Bosch washing machine to rent, £3.99 a week! No deposit, no more unwanted repair bills. Tel 321 678

**BEEKEEPING** equipment for sale. Would suit beginners. Tel 01325 316225

**HOUSE CONTENTS SALE** Sat/Sun 20th/21st Oct - 10.30am to 4pm. Dark Wardrobes, Matching Bedside Drawers, 2 + 3 Seater Cream Leather Sofas. Large Ornaments, Large Canvasses, Elec Kitchen Items, Tools + Garden Items, Water Feature, and more. Everything must go due to move. Call 07960 143155 for info.

**TWIN** pushchair chocolate and black, excellent condition, £40; Twin pushchair, Silvercross black, good condition, £25 ono; Toddler slide, good condition, £10; Cross trainer machine, excellent condition, £50 ono. Tel 07521 226859

**3 PIECE** suite, brown dralon, immaculate condition, style will suit older person, can deliver, £60. Tel 07789 113343

**BRAND NEW** double divan with quilted Damask mattress, £120, can deliver. Tel 07789 113343

**HALOGEN** cooker, extending ring, £25; Delonghi heater £20; Foot spa, 3 settings, £20. Tel 315560

**PRIVATE** number plate "MAT 771V", all transfers paid, £500. Gents jacket, DAK of London, R48, cost £250 accept £100. Tel 01325 308196

**MAGIMIX 3200** food processor, £145 (with recipe book), excellent condition. Tel 311537

**BEDS BEDS BEDS** at Bargain Buys. Single Divan beds, Double Divan beds, Pine Frames, Metal Frames and Double Leather Frames from £99. All available on credit. Tel 321 678

## Property Wanted

**FACING REPOSESSION?** Don't let it get that far, investors waiting! Call County Durham Property Buyers, 01325 520 820

## Births

**RYAN KETCH** and Nicky Roberts. Congratulations on the birth of your Daughter on 25th September 2012. She is adorable! Love from Nana Maria, Grandad Bob, Auntie Leanne and Uncle Mike

## Congratulations

**NOAH RAY SCOTT** (17th October 2006). Happy 6th birthday to our gorgeous Grandson. Hope your birthday is as special as you are little man. Lots of love, hugs and kisses from Grandma and Grandad Fawcett xxxxx

### Jamie and Amii Cogan

#### Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary

16th October 2012

To our Son and Daughter-in-Law, congratulations. We love you both very much. Mam and Dad Cogan and UB dog xxxx



### Congratulations Mr & Mrs Timmons Six-Ten-Twelve

**Congratulations** Hannah and Sam on the wedding of the century! We could not be more happy for you both. We wish you all the happiness in the world for your future together. Love you both very much. From Dad, Mum, Vikki, Ste, Keira, Wes and special kisses from your little bridesmaid Sophie xxxxx

**Congratulations** Hannah and Sam on your recent wedding 06-10-12. Thanks for a great day! Hope you had a wonderful honeymoon in St. Lucia. Love from Auntie Joyce, Auntie Karen and Uncle Nicky xxx

**Congratulations** Hannah and Sam on your Wedding Day, Six-Ten-Twelve. It was really great. Best wishes for your future life together. Lots of love, Auntie Annice, Uncle Jim and family xxx



## Accommodation

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**3 BEDROOM** house for rent in Fenhall Green, £110 per week. No DSS. Tel 07540 256364

**2 BEDROOM** house to let, unfurnished in Bowes Road. Bond required. Tel 07546 226608

**2 BEDROOM** semi, Newton Aycliffe. DG, CH, no pets, Bond and refs required. Tel 01609 881310

**3 BEDROOM** properties to let. For details Tel 07980 596563

**2 BEDROOM** house to let in Guthrum Place, Newton Aycliffe. Very good condition, DG, Combi Boiler with garden. Available from 20th October. Deposit and References required. £425 per month. Tel 07749 119114

**3 BEDROOM** Hawes Place, ready in one week. Will be fully decorated and new flooring. Tel 01325 312754

**2/3 BEDROOM**, large terrace house in Spennymoor. Refs required. £380 per month call 07711 845519 for details

**3 BEDROOM** house with garage and 3 bedroom semi with garden. Tel 07882 440377

**2 BEDROOM** semi in Woodham, GCH, quiet close, guarantor required, £450pcm. Tel 07780 333398

**3 BEDROOM** house to rent, £110 per week, bond and refs required. Ring 01325 307445. DSS welcome

**3 BEDROOM** house Mackenzie Place, £110 per week, bond and refs required. DSS welcome, Tel 07590 187165

**3 BEDROOM** house Scott Place, £110 per week. Bond and refs required. DSS welcome. Tel 07590 187165

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## Big Club Team Hope for Big Turnout

Newton Aycliffe Big Club are expecting a huge turnout for their historic FA Sunday Cup match in the town this weekend. Jason Steele's side will take on Winlaton Commercial in the first round of the All England Cup – the club's first-ever game in the 'FA Cup of Sunday Morning Football' – at Aycliffe FC's Moore Lane Park this Sunday 21st October - 10.30am kick off, admission £2 for all.

Joint-boss Des Wood, who helps run the side with Boro's Newtonian goalkeeper Jason Steele and club member Dave Owen, is hoping for a big crowd. "I'd like to think we'll get two or three hundred there," said Des.

He praised the commitment and contribution by 22-year-old Steele, who gives a lot of his spare time running the club. "I've been involved over the last few years and I've been disappointed with some of the players letting you down, but it doesn't happen when Jason's involved, his input is immense and he texts all the guys on a regular basis."

"If he's training on a Sunday morning he makes sure our side is picked and he's text all the players to make sure they all know where we're playing, where we're meeting. The organisation is excellent and having him involved is a major plus for the club."

"He hasn't forgotten where he came from and does presentations in schools. He's also a Sporting Ambassador for his old school Woodham Academy."

Jason remains cautious ahead of Sunday's big game. "I wouldn't even dream of winning it as I don't think we're quite prepared to win that competition. It's just part of a growing process for us as we've only been together for a couple of years. It's just good for all the lads to be involved and hopefully we can do well," said Jason

## How to Win a Bike



The Town Council's Summer Super Sports Skills bike draw winner was Callum aged

10 from Newton Aycliffe. The Mayor Cllr Val Raw presented Callum with his new bike on Thursday 11th October.

For your chance to win a new bike get involved in our Autumn Half Term Super Sports Skills programme. For further information visit our website [www.great-aycliffe.gov.co.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.co.uk) to book your place please contact our Reception on 01325 300600.

## Leisure Centre's 40k Makeover

Spennymoor Leisure Centre's exterior is to get a £40,000 makeover thanks to funding from the AAP.

In addition to a paint job there are plans to provide floral displays, seating, new paving and the removal of outdated sculptures.

## Professional Snooker in Spennymoor

Premier League Snooker is coming to Spennymoor Leisure Centre in November. See some of the world's top snooker professionals in action with featured matches, televised for Sky Sports: Neil Robertson v Ding Junhui and John Higgins v Peter Ebdon.

Mark Lee, Manager said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for residents of County Durham to come along to Spennymoor Leisure Centre and enjoy live premier league snooker, watching world-champion players."

The snooker matches are on Thursday 15 November at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £18 and concessions £15. Early booking is recommended. For tickets contact the box office: 03000 261 162. Website: [www.durham.gov.uk/sport](http://www.durham.gov.uk/sport)

## Aycliffe Runners in Richmond Castle 10K



On Sunday 14th October 10 members of Aycliffe Running Club travelled to Richmond for the annual Richmond Castle 10K. Weather conditions were ideal for running, bright and cool.

This year the race started at The Batts down by the river instead of the market place, so no downhill start this time. Then began the long climb out of Richmond on undulating roads towards Bournon Barracks.

There are also some very steep

declines in this race before the long undulating hill back to the finish inside the grounds of the Castle. Not a race for trying to achieve a personal best, however, some good times were recorded. First home for Aycliffe and 5th overall was Dez Fielden in 37:44, followed by Lee Wren 40:28 and closely followed by Peter Milburn 40:41 and 2nd M50. Next was Tom Porter in 43:33, Nigel Holmes 45:47, Gary Minns 51:07.

First lady back for Aycliffe was Wendy Bake 51:53 followed by Trish Kay 53:23, Dave MacKenzie 57:55 and Tracey Warrior 59:48. All agreed the race was tough, a real challenge but a good training run.

On the same day other Aycliffe runners chose to do the NYSD 6.75 mile Cross Country at Acklam. First home for Aycliffe with a superb run on the tough muddy course was Martyn Knox in 48:50. Next was Dave Thompson 49:06 followed by Richard Campbell 49:40, Dean Barclay 52:27, Kevin Greenall 53:04, Colin Gibson 54:51.

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