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Aycliffe Remembers the Fallen

The War Memorial at St. Clares Church was the focus of the town's Remembrance Day Parade, Service and two minute silence last Sunday. The usual large crowds turned out to pay respect to those who have died for

their country in wars past and present. The Last Post, Reveille, wreath laying, prayers, poems, hymns, amid tears and thoughtful remembrance on sombre faces, provided the backdrop to this solemn

11th day of the 11th month. Old and young dutifully marked this special day and listened intently to Rev. Julie Wing, in her address, calling on everyone to remember those who made the final sacrifice, paying the price so that we can reap the benefits. "They laid down their lives for family, comrades and country. They brought a peace we take for granted and we owe them much" said the minister.

It was a splendid occasion, with town band playing, soldiers and ex-service men and women marching proudly with banners unfurled. It was a sincere tribute to lost heroes and those currently risking their lives fighting for peace in our world.



The Revd Mike Dixon officiated at St. Andrews, Aycliffe Village

Town Centre Oak Trees

Following the revelation that two Oak Trees in the town centre had been felled without notice, Counc Bill Blenkinsopp contacted County Hall. Rodger Lowe Senior Tree Officer told him planning consent was granted as part of the larger Tesco scheme in 2001. "In view of this I'm afraid our hands are tied. The trees may have died/drowned with all this rain and that is why they have been removed" said Rodger. Readers should note that new trees will be planted as part of the town centre redevelopment.



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Thursday 22nd November to Saturday 24th November, 2012 From 7pm

For Tickets contact Brenda on 01325311816 or 07976477828

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Family Tickets £10.00

Presented by "The Acorn Players"

SECOND CHANCE TO MEET THE ARTIST



The latest opening in The Greenfield Gallery at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre – the preview of Tim Sutherland's exhibition 'Soulscapes and Storyboards' was a great success. Over 80 people joined the artist and his family for refreshments, live artwork creation and the opportunity to talk to Tim himself. Following this success he has been encouraged to hold a closing event for his exhibition to be

held on Wednesday 21st November at the Arts Centre from 6-8pm. The aim is to give people a second chance to view, purchase or commission artwork and photography. All are welcome, light refreshments will be available. For more information contact Greenfield Community & Arts Centre on 01325 379048.

Get Well Soon Peter

The Acorn Players are sorry that one of their members, Peter Waters, cannot perform in their annual Panto this year. 11 year old Peter has contracted Aplastic Anaemia and needs a bone marrow transplant. He goes into hospital next week and will be in for six weeks. All his friends at Acorn Players send love and best wishes for a speedy recovery as does Newton News on behalf of all our readers.



Christmas Concert

Rehearsals are well under way at Woodham Academy for this year's Christmas Concert, which as usual will feature performances from a wide variety of talented students from years 7 through to 11. Woodham Samba Band, Jazz Band, Instrumental Group, and Woodham Sound are all preparing Christmas-themed performances. The audience will also be entertained by instrumental and vocal solos from many other students from across the Academy, including GCSE students preparing performances which will also act as part of their coursework. There may even be a sneak preview of music from 2013's much-anticipated upcoming musical, 'We Will Rock You' to whet your appetite...

The concert will be on Thursday 6th December at 7pm in the Main Hall. Tickets will be priced at £3 for adults and £2 for students and concessions. Tickets are available from Woodham Academy Reception. We hope to see you there! Unable to attend the Christmas Concert? Not to worry, you can still see Woodham students in action during the Christmas period. We will be taking part in the Newton Aycliffe Community Christmas Concert, which will take place in the Leisure Centre on Sunday 16th December. This event is a Christmas-themed celebration which brings together people of all ages from across the community. Woodham students are delighted to have been invited to participate once again.

Which PANTO?

For your convenience Newton News has put together a selection of Pantomimes for the coming festive season:

Woodham Academy - Acorn Players
01325 311816 or 07976 477828
SNOW WHITE
Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th November, 7pm

Bishop Auckland Town Hall - 01388 602610
www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk
ALADDIN
Sunday 25th November 2pm and 6pm
Monday 26th November 10.30am and 1.30pm
Tuesday 27th November 10.30am and 1.30pm

Everyman Theatre, O'Hanlan Street, Spennymoor
www.famefactoryspotlight.co.uk
ALADDIN
25th November to 1st December 2012

Newcastle Theatre Royal - 08448 112121
www.theatreroyal.co.uk
ALADDIN
Tuesday 27th November to Saturday 19th January

Gala Theatre, Durham - 0191 332 4041
www.galadurham.co.uk
SLEEPING BEAUTY
Thursday 29th November to Saturday 5th January

Darlington Civic Theatre - 01325 486555
www.darlington.gov.uk
SLEEPING BEAUTY
Saturday 8th December to Sunday 20th January

Sunderland Empire Theatre - 0191 566 1040
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Saturday 17th November - "BULLETT"

Riffs Magazine Review: TURBINIA07 "The prognosis from tonight's performance is definitely a thumbs-up: passion, energy and excitement are what BULLETT deliver and watching the crowd at the TURBINIA go crazy for them, then it's obvious they are on the way up very quickly. BULLETT 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 BULLETT, they could just have your name on them"

See whole review on www.zen76308.zen.co.uk/Riffs/MYDOCUMENTS/BANDREVIEWS/BITS/BULLET

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

Saturday 24th November - "THE KILL"

"The band took to the stage, from the off it was a great hard rock attack that set the vibe that would continue throughout the performance. Vocalist Gregg took centre point on stage and really went for it. Not just vocally but physically too! I've said it before and I'll say it again, the Office stage is bigger than most pub set-ups and it needs a band with a genuine physical presence to attract the audience's attention in a building of that size. They had that charisma about them. The rock style of the band continued on with a commercial AOR feel on such songs as Def Leppard's 'Animal', and even though the group did generally go down the path of recognisable rock anthems, it never became too cheesy or entirely predictable. I think they hit a marvellous balance of choosing songs that would have a larger appeal, and yet still maintained an element where you weren't too sure what was coming next"

Colin Smoult Review.

Tracks covered by Bon Jovi, Foo Fighters, Def Leppard, Guns n Roses, Linkin Park, Metallica, Ozzy, Pearl Jam, Skid Row, Poison and more - www.thekill.co.uk

Saturday 1st December - "UNCLE GILBERT"

RIFFS Online Review: "An excellent night with some classic rock covers done by mainstay of our rock fraternity both Bill and Gary gave the thumbs up to the performance - as did all the other punters in the venue tonight. For a band to stay together for that long you just know they're doing something right - this band have just earned themselves a promotion into the premiere league"

Covering tracks by: Bad Company, Billy Idol, Bon Jovi, Cult, Deep Purple, Gary Moore, Hendrix, Satriani, Pink Floyd, Rory Gallagher, Santana, UFO, ZZ Top and more.

www.unclegilbert.co.uk

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New Aldi Boosts Town Centre Development



At a time when many town centres are reporting the closure of major stores, Aycliffe Town Centre is bucking the trend with the opening of a new Aldi supermarket. The £1.5m development is the latest phase in an on-going transformation of the centre and is another good news story for the town already attracting major train-maker Hitachi

20 jobs have been created in the new store, which is the latest phase in the on-going transformation of the town centre.

Andrew Thomson of landlords, Freshwater, commented that "This is a good news story at a time when other town centres are struggling to survive. We have great confidence in Aycliffe town centre and have been very encouraged by the support and encouragement we have received from Durham Council, the Town Council and Phil Wilson, M.P. The successful delivery of the project and the exciting plans we have to take the centre forward show what can be achieved when the private and public sector work together"

Phil Wilson MP said, "The new Aldi store will be a great asset to the town adding greatly to the variety of shopping available. The store heralds the latest stage in the town centre redevelopment." The Mayor of Great Aycliffe Val Raw added "I would like to warmly welcome Aldi into Newton Aycliffe and thank everyone who has been involved in the development of this new store."

The demolition of the empty offices on Dalton Way and the development of the 15,000sqft supermarket along with 74 car parking spaces have transformed the appearance of the shopping centre and knitted together Tesco, Argos and the other shops in that area with the older part of the town centre.

Centre Manager Bryan Haldane said "I expect following the opening of the new store, there will be renewed interest from other retailers seeking space in the town centre. We are already

in discussion with existing tenants who are looking to expand or relocate closer to Aldi and the new car park. "We hope to start work on the £2m refurbishment of Beveridge Way during the early part of next year and continue to build on the success of attracting retailers

such as Wilkinson and Aldi to the town. The next phase of the regeneration of the Aycliffe Centre will see major improvements to the precinct with new lighting, the planting of 26 new trees with new paving throughout the centre.

NEWTON NEWS ON THE BUSINESS PARK

"Newton News" received a superb response from the businesses on the Aycliffe Business Park, when a copy of the popular local paper dropped through their letterbox. We are keen to knit companies on the Park with the local community and will be featuring success and activities including achievements of employees.

We are hoping to build a better relationship and communication between the two areas.

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Fishburn Primary School	Manager: Carol Woods	01740 620683
Evenwood Village	Manager: Kerry Dixon	01388 834161
Newton Aycliffe	Manager: Vicky Hutchinson	01325 315623
Bishop Middleham	Manager: Natalie Richardson	01740 651224

*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding

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Agnew Centre NEWS & VIEWS

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DISABILITY SPORTS CLUB has now got to the stage with increased numbers it has now over two sessions - 5-30 pm to 6-30 pm & 6-30 pm to 7-30 pm - Open to all disabilities and if you require some expert information ring Darren on 07801 937498 or Dale 07411 009487. We provide a huge variety of equipment courtesy of the GAMP Neighbourhood Fund. Ably run by the local Anderson Sports Development. If you require any general information contact the Centre Manager on 01325-321504 office or 07749 236853.

PK ALL STARS The crew led by James Ross and volunteers from Xcel Church is now attracting each week numbers around 35 young people aged 7 to 11 years. James still has room for a few more so come along to sessions designed to excite, have fun and at the same time learn good positive messages of how to live with each other. If you are a parent / carer then James will be only too happy to see you for a chat and/or a look around our Centre.

SAFE PLAY AREA The Agnew have just received a grant from County Durham Community Foundation for an Artificial Grass area for the Nursery.

DISABILITY SPORTS & YOUTH CLUB CHILDREN. take this opportunity to thank CDCF supporters which included Tallents. This is another piece of the overall plan completed for the land around our Centre.

CHILDREN'S PARTIES We still have some weekend dates free for your Child's Party so contact us on 01325-321504 or 07749 236853 or by email agnewcommunitycentre@btconnect.com

GENERAL BOOKINGS Want a Room for your group to meet on a regular basis? Our Meeting Room might be just what you are looking for and for a regular booking we can go as low as £5 per hour. For one off bookings of the Hall at weekends only it is £9 per hour and the Meeting Room at most days and times is £6 per hour. These prices are available to voluntary & non profit making groups.

Free Dictionaries for Year 6



Rotarian Jill Thompson presented Illustrated dictionaries to Year 6 students at Aycliffe Village School to aid their English studies. The books are being gifted to all Year 6 children in the area from the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe as part of this international organisation's aim to improve literacy in the world.

Dictionaries for Sugar Hill



The above photo is of the year 6 pupils at Sugar Hill Primary School, Teacher Mrs. Hindmarsh (left) and Rotarian Angela Stevenson (right) after the presentation of the dictionaries.

Rotary Club Gift for Year 6



Year 6 pupils of Heighington CE Primary School, Deputy Head Teacher Mrs. Goundry, Head Teacher Mr. Parker & Teacher Mrs. Stephenson (left to right - centre) and Rotarian Angela Stevenson (right) from the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe who presented the dictionaries on their behalf.

Dictionaries for Byerley Park



Year 6 pupils of Byerley Park Primary School, teacher Mrs. Pattison (left) and Rotarian Angela Stevenson (right) after the presentation of the dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe.

GREENFIELD STUDENT IN REGIONAL COOKING CONTEST



Emily Bloomer from Greenfield Community College, was chosen as one of the talented finalists in a national search to find the country's next top cooking talent. After receiving hundreds of entries from across the country, 50 students were shortlisted to take part in six regional heats in the hope of eventually being crowned National Champion. James and his fellow judges were blown away by Emily's creative dish, Lamb and Apricot Meatballs and she earned "Highly Commended" certificate for her dish at Harrogate on 12th November. Every year the standard gets higher and James Martin said: "The quality of entries we have received this year has been very impressive. It has been difficult choosing our finalists from such a creative and talented group." Red Tractor beef and lamb launched the challenge to engage, educate and inspire students to get hands-on cooking experience and appreciate the importance of good nutrition, quality ingredients and develop an understanding of where food comes from. Denise Spencer-Walker, Food Adviser said: "As always, the standard of this year's entries has been really high. The finalists should be very proud of themselves for submitting such imaginative recipes and they all had a great time at the regional heats this week."

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Application forms can be obtained by telephoning 01325 300700, e-mailing info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk - or from the Council's web site www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk.

**Closing Date for Applications:
Friday, 30th November, 2012**

For further details or an informal discussion about the post, please contact the Early Years Officer, Jackie Swainston on 01325 319880 or by email at jackie.swainston@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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IMPROVING AYCLIFFE'S ENVIRONMENT



Great Aycliffe Town Council has entered into an agreement with the County Council to take on the day to day maintenance of over 33 hectares of County Council land around the parish. These areas include Bluebell Wood, local Nature Reserves at Byerley Park and The Moor and woodland areas around the western and northern fringes of Cobbler's Hall housing developments. Most of these areas are adjacent to the Great Aycliffe Way and in addition to environmental areas already owned and managed by the Town Council. A detailed maintenance programme is in place, with work carried out by Town Council staff, with

considerable assistance from volunteers and community groups, such as the Byerley Park Friends Group, plus the National Probation Service. Local schools have been encouraged to use the areas and have been involved in tree planting, bulb planting, themed nature walks and the Town Council's Town Pride Environment Week with further events planned for the general public. In a forthcoming series of articles, the Town Council's Environment Officer, Steve Cooper, will be focussing on the work carried out on individual sites and activities available. Steve can be contacted on 07779 090842 or via the Town Council on 01325 300700.

REPORT ON COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 31ST OCTOBER

One of the tasks of the Town Council is to represent 'the voice of the people' in matters affecting the town, and the Full Council meeting of Wednesday 31st October addressed a number of such issues.

Mr Robin Turnbull, District Manager for the Fire Service, gave a presentation on their move to a 'Day Current Plus' shift system (12-hour shifts with 'standby' hours). This will allow the Service to reduce the number of full-time firefighters from 24 to 14. In response to Councillors' questions, he assured members that a 24/7 immediate operational response would be maintained, that staff welcomed the change in work-pattern, and that no member of staff would be sacked.

Living representatives Ian Brown and Wayne Harris gave a presentation to the Council of some of the initiatives Living are undertaking in the Great Aycliffe area. Members were impressed by the excellent standard of the houses Living are building, and heard that – in addition to c.450 new houses over the next three years – Living hopes to bring 30 empty houses back into use.

As Councillors asked questions, however, they learned that Aycliffe is a high-demand area for affordable

rental housing, with some 1,800 on the waiting list. It seemed to members that the provision of housing was not keeping up to the demand, and Council Leader Bob Fleming stated that Living would need to be a key partner in the Council's forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillors heard a presentation by Mr Stuart Timmiss (DCC Head of Assets and Planning) on the County Durham Plan. He described it as 'a Plan of opportunities' for development which was sustainable AND deliverable, protecting the wonderful quality of life we have in County Durham. (It is the only Plan in the country which specifically plans for older people's housing.)

Councillors thanked Mr Timmiss for the way the consultation process really had listened to people's comments, and taken on board many of their suggestions for the town (notably in the amount of development land identified). Councillors heard also that the Neighbourhood Plan will allow residents to protect Aycliffe's green spaces and amenity land, and to encourage the provision of the kind of housing needed.

Responding to an initiative by Councillor W Curtis, members discussed the changes to bus services, which are seriously inconveniencing and angering

residents. Bus services are difficult for the Town Council to influence because Arriva is a private company and subsidised routes are a County Council matter. Nevertheless, members felt that the current situation is grossly unacceptable, and unanimously agreed a motion that GATC should try to arrange a meeting of interested parties, to see if anything can be done.

The Council expressed its disappointment that the Boundaries Commission had not listened to its submission regarding the constituency boundary, but had insisted on splitting Aycliffe between Bishop Auckland and Stockton North constituencies.

The Boundaries Commission had now placed itself in the situation where, by insisting that it could not split a County Council ward, because it had refused to acknowledge a recent change in boundaries which the Boundaries Commission itself had made (...so that it might not split a County Council ward!) Councillors delegated Councillor Clare and the Town Clerk to write to the Boundaries Commission asking that the decision be changed.

John D Clare
Great Aycliffe Town Council

Students Should Pick up Own Litter

Dear Sir,
I had to write when reading an advertisement from Greenfield School for a Litter Picker. I could not believe the College felt it was right to spend over £2,800 of their education budget, in such dire times, to actually hire someone to go round picking up litter after students. It seems obscene!

I understand the school's main aim is to teach children the "3 R's", but I would have thought it just as important to teach respect for themselves and the community around them. Dropping litter is a public offence and it would seem more appropriate to get students to pick up their own litter, which hopefully would become a good habit in and outside school grounds. People like myself, when out

walking, are having to pick up litter dropped by students along the paths to and from Greenfield College.

If it is too much trouble, or there is not enough time for staff to teach students basic community values and not to drop litter, then perhaps instead of giving detention, they could get students to litter pick and do something constructive to work off bad behaviour?

Perhaps Greenfield's budget is so overflowing that a mere £2,800 wouldn't make any difference, but in any case teaching the upcoming generation to have respect for their community should be of paramount importance.

I would be interested to hear the Head Teacher's comments on this matter.

Pat Nash

Reply from Headteacher

Greenfield Community College values its place in the community and I can assure you that we have a major programme to develop good citizenship as part of a rounded education. The school achieved record results again this year and was commended by OFSTED inspectors for the sustained improvement in behaviour.

We employ a wide range of staff to enable us to set high standards and develop the young people in our care. Our facilities are open to the public every night until 10.00pm as well as at weekends.

David Priestley, Headteacher

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AYCLIFFE VILLAGE NEWS

CHOIR PRACTICE: The Village People's choir meets on Sundays at 3pm in Aycliffe Village Hall to practise hymns in preparation for several Christmas events in the village. New singers are always welcome.

KEEP FIT: A fitness class for the over-50s has started on Thursdays at Aycliffe

Village Hall from 10am-11am. Sessions cost £3.50. For details, call Alex on 07774-513389.

WI BIRTHDAY: Aycliffe Village WI looks forward to two events this month. On Wednesday, 21st November, there is the regular monthly meeting at the village hall when Lyn Swift will give a talk about

Clippie Mats. The competition is for a Christmas decoration. The WI celebrates its 1st birthday on Saturday, 24th November, with a party from 11am-5pm. Brunch, afternoon tea, cakes, as well as children's activities, raffle, tombola and quizzes. Entry £1 for adults, 50p for kids (includes entry to treasure hunt).

Busman Holiday Scots Visit Aycliffe Bus Museum



North of the Border bus enthusiasts from Lathalmond Bus Museum, Scotland, called in on Saturday to view the activities of the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society, Aycliffe's only accredited museum, on their way to Lincolnshire for a 'busman's' holiday.

The visitors were told how the Society structured itself as a working collection and networked with regional museums and collections to provide its outreach to the public.

The visitors also saw the Society's IT and Archive facilities from which members of the Society are digitally scanning an extensive photographic collection prior to launching it on the Internet and via Beamish, Locomotion and Head of Steam Darlington, as a research facility.

The visitors also inspected the current restoration project, 1982 Leyland National bus ex United Automobile Services Ltd single decker, MHN 131W. The stop over concluded with a run on the Heartbeat bus together with the recently finished 1958 LS coach before heading south to 'yellow belly' country.

The Society has just renewed its full Accreditation status, now overseen by the Arts Council. This achievement concludes a very successful year which included a celebration of 100 Years of United. It has given confidence to the members as it looks to 2013 for new challenges and events in which to display its collection of vintage buses.

For details about the Society visit our website www.aycliffibus.org.uk or call Ian Wiggett on 01325 317657.

Family Bike Club

Are you interested in joining a Family Bike club aimed at all levels of cycling ability in the Aycliffe/Sedgefield area? The Club will cater for people wishing to be part of an organised club, with scheduled rides around Aycliffe and also occasional excursions to other area's and including trips to locations such as Hamsterley forest and the Seven Staines forest routes. Children 10 and over are also welcome, but would have to be accompanied by their Guardian.

I am not initially looking at extreme biking, more at Bridleways, tracks and forest routes at a pace that will accommodate the less experienced rider. The club will be ideal for people looking to compliment or start their fitness regime with an enjoyable outdoor activity that

has so many benefits. I would envisage cycling probably once a weekend and maybe once during the week if enough people are interested, my intention would be cater for all levels initially and then to see if there is enough people to split in too different categories. Although initially the club would not be suitable for the experienced/fast paced riders, they are more than welcome to attend, but bear in mind that it will not initially cater for the faster more fitter Biker!

There is still some cycling to be done during the next few months and it is also a good time to lay the foundations for the start of next year. If you are interested in being part of the initial grass roots concept, then please contact: Steve on: 07523 871373 or you can also E-mail: aclecc@hotmail.co.uk

NEWTON NEWS

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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 £495 pcm



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Aycliffe Village Launch Jubilee DVD

Aycliffe Village is proud to announce the launch of its Jubilee DVD, which has been produced with funding from the AAP.

Keith Johnson, chairman of Great Aycliffe Village Hall Association, said that GAMP had provided £505.60 towards the cost of production. He said: "The committee is very grateful to GAMP as the cost of producing the DVDs was very generously met via its small grants fund."

The DVD which has been created by Ken and Pamela Fox, of Aycliffe Village, is an account to music of the Jubilee celebrations held on the village green in the summer.

It follows the brainstorming sessions of the committee set up to organise the day, as well as the preparations prior

to the event such as putting up marquees on the green.

It also includes footage of the tree-planting ceremony, the Songs of Praise service held on the eve of the event and then the Jubilee day itself including breakfast at the village hall, the children in their commemorative T-shirts singing the National Anthem and the games and activities on the village green during the course of the day. The DVD is of a high quality and a wonderful record of a truly memorable day.

Residents were treated to two viewing sessions at a recent launch evening at Aycliffe Village Hall where refreshments were served.

The DVDs are available free of charge (although any donations would be welcome) from Keith Johnson on 01325-314735.

Good Start for New Shop



Town Mayor Val Raw was impressed by the range of goods at very reasonable prices at the new Grannies Choice shop next to Greggs in the town centre. By the number of customers who have since visited the shop appears to be a complete success for the owners who make the products on Aycliffe Business Park.

It Pays to Complain to Your M.P.

Since the Aldi store opened last Thursday a number of my constituents contacted me to express their delight at the completion of this phase of the Town Centre rejuvenation. There were some concerns regarding the new pedestrian crossing adjacent to the new store, and having seen the site I agreed that it could quickly become a muddy eyesore.

I contacted Mr Collins the Director of Neighbourhood Services at Durham County Council who has now confirmed that remedial work will be carried out and weather permitting should be completed within four weeks.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all those who contacted me and to remind my constituents that my Town Centre office operates an open door policy and is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday however it helps to call first on 01325 321603."

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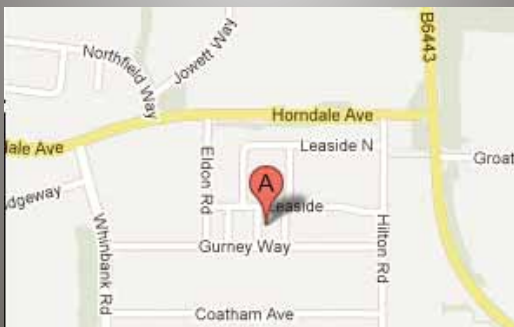
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Tetleys Work with Town's Training Provider

A WELL-KNOWN brand is brewing up an efficient workforce, after teaming up with a specialist Aycliffe training provider.

Eaglescliffe manufacturer Tata Global Beverages, the company behind Tetley Tea, is working with Newton Aycliffe based S.W. Durham Training (SWDT) to ensure that its 400-strong team is equipped with the skills needed to improve efficiency and drive down production costs.

The tea factory, in Eaglescliffe since 1969, partnered with SWDT, a specialist manufacturing and engineering provider, in 2008, to deliver a number of bespoke training courses, but has now embarked on a multi-skilling programme that will ensure its team are able to respond quickly and effectively to production issues.

The company's Lean Skills for Life programme, a course developed with SWDT encompassing basic lean manufacturing principles with literacy and numeracy skills, has been rolled out to a large number of employees as part of the company's commitment to developing its people.

Tony Stubbs, plant manager at Tata said the company had seen significant benefits since beginning its training effort, with a reduction to the business' cost base of £2 million over the last four years and an increase in site productivity from 71 to 86%. He said: "The impact of training and development on our site's performance has been quite phenomenal. The efficiency levels we have been able to achieve through lean manufacturing techniques puts us some way ahead of other Tata sites including those in the Czech Republic, Poland and India, and in turn makes a very strong case for Eaglescliffe."

"Further investment in multi-skilling is something that we believe will further improve efficiency at our site, ensuring that we have staff on hand at all times to deal with any issues that could delay production. We're once again working



with SWDT to deliver this, and have developed a course in partnership with their team that will meet our exact training requirements. We're sure that it will prove to be a big success."

Six mechanical engineers are currently undertaking multi-skilling training to equip them with basic electrical skills. The company intends to roll this out among all mechanical engineers if it proves to be a success. It is hoped that the training will reduce the impact of electrical issues, ensuring that staff are always on hand to deal with problems that would cause production delays during periods in which electrical engineers are not on site.

The multi-skilling programme will be added to the raft of training and develop initiatives that Tata believes have contributed to cost reductions, increased productivity and a reduction in absenteeism from over 6% to 4% in three years. Charl Erasmus, chief executive of SWDT, said:

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Giving People a Taste of Working in a Factory

Local entrepreneur John Manners supported by his wife Jennifer of A-Tech Fabrications moved last year to bigger, modern premises at Fulbeck Road on Aycliffe Business Park. Passionate about getting local people into jobs they offered part of this massive factory to help the long term unemployed by giving them the experience of working in an industrial environment and testing their aptitude for the different aspects of engineering and manufacturing.

In the space of a year over 63 men and women have been placed in jobs, filling vacancies in industry where

there is a shortage of people wanting to be trained. Recently Torus, a national recruiting company, moved into A-Tech's 54,000 sq ft. unit and are further developing the scheme. A-Tech and Gateshead College have been successful in working with Jobcentre Plus and other Work Programme Providers who send jobless people down to A-Tech at Aycliffe to receive a 3-4 week Pre-employment Vocational training course. John Manners told Newton News he wants more local unemployed people to take up the short courses available to help them in applying for jobs. "There is no doubt they enjoy what we offer and they leave here keen to work with new confidence in themselves" said John. "We just want to give local people a chance to see what working in a factory is like and are able to show them operating procedures, help them with hand/eye co-ordination, talk to them about job opportunities, and test their suitability for the many different jobs available in industry." said Craig from Torus. The only condition for



Photo back: John Manners – A Tech, Colin Bromley Gateshead College
Front: Craig Wright, Torus, Jennifer Manners – A Tech, and Paul Guy Gateshead College



provided. For further details ring Craig or Ani on 01325 468780 E-mail: craig.wright@torussupply.co.uk If you are unemployed and want to learn more about the course get in touch now with your work provider or call at A-Tech on Fulbeck Road, Aycliffe Business Park on 01325 304033

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on the course he was down, thought no-one would give him a chance and thought the course was a waste of time for "people like him". He was told he was just the type of person the course was designed for - people who want to retrain and get employment in the manufacturing sector. He gave it a go and after 3 weeks, the change was amazing. He was confident, energised, eager to get into factory life and get started. Lee is now entering his 13th week, and has already had a pay rise. Torus have been around since 1995 and specialise in Industrial and Engineering recruitment. They have a number of branches, with a head office in Doncaster. An Open Day for local businesses will be held on Wednesday December 5th from 10.30 am. This is an informal get together inviting people to walk round the site, chat with John and Jennifer from A-Tech, Colin Bromley and Paul Guy from Gateshead College and Craig from Torus. Companies will be encouraged to ask questions, to see that what A-Tech, Gateshead College and Torus are doing to enable them to adapt bespoke courses to their requirements. Refreshments will be

History Society Hold A.G.M.

The next meeting of the Newton Aycliffe Family History Society will take place on Wednesday 28th November 2012 commencing at 7.30pm at the Church Of The Latter Day Saints. This will be the last meeting of the year and will take the form of the AGM. For further information please contact the Chairman - Keith Bell 01325 307905"



Aycliffe ITEC's Best Ofsted Report

Local independent learning provider, ITEC North East's recent Ofsted inspection awarded a Grade 2, recognising them as a good provider, effective in delivering outcomes that provide well for all its learner's needs, developing good workplace and technical skills through NVQ's and Apprenticeships. ITEC's Managing Director, David Baker and his senior management team were delighted to receive formal acknowledgement of the ongoing progress to successfully meet the needs of both learners and the 200 employers with whom they work. "Inspectors have given ITEC staff credit for their performance and good teaching providing examples of excellent one-to-one coaching and their hard work to successfully establish good, caring and supportive relationships with learners. Since the last inspection in 2009, success rates for learners overall have improved and in 2010/11 were several points above the national average. We're committed to building upon this success in delivering Apprenticeships in Information and Communication Tech-nology (ICT), Business Administration, Customer Service and Sales." Ofsted reported many of ITEC's learners have taken on extra responsibilities at work and have been awarded pay rises or achieved promotion which is excellent news for local young adults considering an Apprenticeship as a route into successful employment and career progression. Staff at ITEC's three North East training centres saw a steady rise in the numbers of young people applying for their Apprenticeship vacancies, increasing by nearly 40% during August to October 2012 compared to the previous year which is extremely encouraging for a growing number of local employers keen to recruit and develop ITEC's Apprentices in the workplace.

DISC OFFICE FURNITURE SALE

Thursday 22nd November
10.00am to 3.00pm

IES Centre, Horndale Ave.,

DISC is a local charity supporting people to fulfill their potential - be it through access to housing and accommodation, education and training or supporting people to address drug and alcohol use or helping the most vulnerable young people and families to change their lives.

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For more information about DISC visit our website at
www.disc-vol.org.uk



Xmas Fayre

Lindisfarne Care Home at Silverdale Place are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 24th November from 2pm - 4pm.

Stalls include: Handicrafts, Home-made Cakes and Pastries, Soft Toy Tombola, Bric a Brac, Bottle Tombola and Books.

All proceeds will go to the residents fund and help towards setting up a Sensory Unit for residents. Please come and support us.



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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 28th November 2012

Environment 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".

What our MP Said in Parliament . . .

The following is a speech from Phil Wilson in the debate on the economy this week.

"I want to discuss the lessons that can be learned from the Hitachi deal and the investment that is coming to my constituency. It is the biggest private sector investment in the north-east since Nissan. It will create a £60 million to £80 million factory and 720 jobs, and will produce the Intercity Express Programme. We must remember that the deal was an initiative by the Labour Government, and not this Government. The campaign that we pulled together and that the coalition used showed the north-east at its best, with everyone coming together to ensure that the deal went ahead. My Right Hon. Friend said that the Government have a masochistic approach to economics, which is correct. The other problem is the mantra that says, "Public sector bad, private sector good." What the Hitachi project proved was that when

the public and private sectors come together, they can achieve great things. I say to Ian Swales that One North East played a great part in bringing Hitachi to

the region. The factory is closer to Teesside than it is to Newcastle. I hope that in the not too distant future Teesport will be used to export trains to the rest of Europe. The other lesson for me is the fact that we are

part of Europe, which is one of the reasons that Hitachi came to the UK. It came not just because of the Intercity Express Programme, but because we are part of a market of 300 million-plus people."

Council Fireworks Display Poster Presentation Evening

On Monday 5th November the Oak Leaf Sports Complex hosted a presentation evening for the winners of the Annual Great Aycliffe Town Council Fireworks Display Safety Poster Competition, which has been a firm favourite of the town's children for many years. This year entries were received from individual children but only Stephenson Way, Vane Road and Walworth Schools.

The entries were all of a high standard making judging very difficult! Having accomplished this task on 9th October, the Mayor Cllr Val Raw, accompanied by Mayoress Cllr Barbara Clare, presented the prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in four age categories, ranging from 3 to 10 years. Afterwards the children, and their families, enjoyed the spectacular Fireworks Display.



Faye Parkins



Scott Horseman



Curtis Stoddart



Connor Rochester



Lani Swainston



Owen Jones



Rhys Craggs

Wheelie Bins Assistance

The information given by Durham County Council on assistance with wheelie bins called on applicants to contact them by internet. A number of readers have contacted Newton News to say they have no computer and could we provide a telephone number. We asked Councillor Dixon who supplied the following number 03000 261000.

AYCLIFFE LABOUR BRANCH CALL PUBLIC MEETING ON HOUSING

One of the main problems facing us, as readers may be aware, is a housing crisis. The local private market is generally depressed, and those houses which are being built are often 'the wrong kind of houses', with a preference for larger, expensive houses ... where the need is for affordable two- and three-bedroom houses and bungalows. In the rental market, the waiting list in the Sedgefield area is 2,700; yet new social housing is being provided at little over 150 houses a year. Government solutions – a benefits cap and a bedroom tax – are at best a solution for London and at worst punitive; how can you downsize when there are no smaller houses available?

To consider this problem, Aycliffe North-West Branch Labour Party is holding a meeting on Thursday 22 November at 7:30pm in the Navy Club, Burnhill Way, Newton Aycliffe. The meeting will consider the facts of the crisis, and then discuss possible political responses. Durham County Councillor Mike Dixon has kindly arranged two speakers and, after the speeches, there will be a time for questions and comment. Hopefully, we will be able to agree a comment or proposal which we can send to the Labour Party National Policy Forum for consideration. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting if they are interested. John D Clare

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COMMUNITY XMAS CONCERT RETURNS TO LEISURE CENTRE

Rotary Club Provide Free Event

The Rotary Club's annual Community Christmas Concert returns to the Leisure Centre after three years at the Xcel Centre.

Organiser Syd Howarth said the Rotary Club were extremely grateful to Xcel for donating use of their facilities for this annual event and accept it could not always be available.

"This is a commercial Conference Centre and the management have been very kind in hosting this event free of charge and it was much appreciated" said Syd.

There will be cost implications at the Leisure Centre, but discounts and funding from Councils will defray the expenses to enable the club to present the Concert free of charge to the community.

As usual the Christmas Carols and Songs will be led by our Town Band. Local Schools and other children's groups have been invited to perform and it is building up to be a spectacular show.

Among those appearing are the new "Shine" choir, Sugar Hill and St. Mary's Schools, Woodham Academy.

The sound system will be provided by John Melvin and groups can bring their own backing tapes for John to play for their musical items.

The Rotary Club, conscious that times are hard, want a free event and have decided not to run a raffle. If people

want to donate to the annual Xmas collection for needy families in the town there will be a collection bucket at the door afterwards.

"We have a collection at Tesco's and will be taking Santa Claus round the streets as usual so we did not want to take money at the Community Concert. It will be a totally free occasion with lots of fun including a visit by Santa Claus" said President of the Club Roger Curtis.

Good Quality at Low Prices

Dear Sir,

We've just been on a 4-day trip to Eurodisney with J&C Coaches and would like to thank them for an absolutely amazing time.

The coach was great, the drivers fantastic and the hotel amazing! How J&C manage to do it so cheaply we have no idea, but its definitely not by cutting back on quality.

We highly recommend this local company and we have already booked for Harry Potter Studios and Legoland next Easter.

The Gallagher & Coward family.

Aldi Pulls in the Customers



Excited shoppers queued outside the new Aldi store on Greenwell Road in Newton Aycliffe to take advantage of a range of opening offers, as the store was opened at 8.00am Thursday 8th November.

Aldi gave away a range of food samples to customers and their children. Store Manager Brendan Doherty and his team enjoyed welcoming customers into the new store and said: "There was a fantastic buzz at the store and it was great to see so many people here for our opening event. Our team and I were only too pleased to introduce shoppers to Aldi's extensive range of products at affordable prices and I look forward to welcoming even more customers to our new store over the coming months." Aldi also provided a boost for the local economy with 20 jobs.

UK ECONOMY UPDATE

Last week's trade numbers showed a better Quarter 3 for UK exporters, while imports continued to decline. The total trade deficit in goods and services narrowed to GBP8.5bn in Q3 compared with GBP10.1bn in Q2. This is good news for UK businesses, providing the confidence needed to stimulate the economy.

The continued fall in exports to EU countries is still a worry, though not particularly surprising given the unrelenting problems being faced by Greece and Spain. Exports to the EU still account for almost 50% of total UK goods exports, and economic data from Germany and France was poor last week.

BOTTOM LINE - UK trade deficit narrows on fall in imports, while exports to EU and non-EU countries continue to diverge, with euro area weakness likely to weigh on demand. China continues to be the major growth area.

St. John's Students in Peru



St John's School and Sixth Form College, A Catholic Academy, proudly offers an extensive range of subjects

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At St John's, Sixth Form students are given a fantastic opportunity to take part in "Project Peru", a fundraising expedition to the remote town of Iquitos in the middle of the Amazon Rainforest. Students spend 2 weeks helping those less fortunate than themselves by building food kitchens and classrooms, and by working in local schools within an area where 46% of the population live in extreme poverty. This experience of a lifetime deepens our students' social understanding and has a profound effect on their lives, inspiring them to do more for the world around them.

Now in its fifth year "Project Peru" is never short of willing volunteers and their enthusiasm and energy for raising money for this cause has included cake baking, supermarket bag-packing, cycling coast to coast and taking part in the annual "Strictly St John's" dance competition.

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www.planet-leisure.co.uk

Autumn is the Time to Get Composting

Residents in County Durham are being urged to get composting this autumn.

Durham County Council is launching an autumn composting campaign to encourage people to recycle their garden waste.

Rachel Gatland, waste strategy and policy officer at Durham County Council, said: "At this time of year people are thinking about tidying up the garden and it's an ideal time to start composting."

"There's plenty of garden waste available – such as spent bedding plants, grass cuttings, autumn leaves and prunings – which can all be recycled over the coming months to produce nutritious compost ready for use in the garden next spring."

"You can also use other

materials to make a good compost such as coffee grounds, tissues and paper napkins, cardboard and vacuum cleaner dust.

"Adding waste to your compost during the cooler weather helps to keep the process going at a time when the decomposition will naturally slow down."

Durham County Council in partnership with www.getcomposting.com is giving people the chance to get a 220 litre compost bin at the reduced price of £16 as well as a further offer to get a second bin for £8, plus £5.49 for delivery. Residents can also buy a 330 litre compost bin for £19, with the offer of a second for £9.50. To order a bin people should contact 0844 571 444 or visit www.getcomposting.com

And for people wondering what to do with all their fallen leaves this autumn, a more environmentally friendly approach is to make a leaf mould.

For further information on composting and leaf moulds, contact Durham County Council's on 03000 261 000, visit www.durham.gov.uk and type 'composting' into the search site, or email wasteaware@durham.gov.uk

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Greenfield Smart Crafts

During half term Greenfield hosted more of the fantastic Smart Craftz 4 Kidz sessions in the Arts Centre – this GAMP AAP funded project has been taking place since October at Greenfield & Woodham schools, with after school sessions for young people exploring Smart materials and craft techniques to design and create products.

This half term more young people were able to learn about the Smart materials with a group using thermochromic and photochromic paints, and glow in the dark materials to create Halloween themed products over two sessions. The group worked with a team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable teachers from Greenfield Community College and had a fantastic time learning new skills and creating a range of products to take away, including scary Halloween masks!

The Smart Craftz 4 Kidz sessions will continue over the next few weeks at both schools, building up to a showcase of their products at Greenfield Arts Centre's Christmas Extravaganza on Wednesday 5th December 2012, from 5:30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to see the great things the young people have been creating – we hope to see you there!

SCOUTS CHEQUE OUT WITH £500 FROM TESCO



The 1st Newton Aycliffe Scout group has benefitted from a £500 donation from its local Tesco Extra. Cath English, group scout leader, and some of the scout members were the guests of honour when the Tesco Extra store held a cheque presentation this Friday 9th November.

As part of the celebrations, store manager, Martin Butcher and his team presented Cath with a cheque for £500. The store chose to donate to the 1st Newton Aycliffe Scouts as part of its commitment to supporting the local community.

The scout group is part of the Bishop Auckland District and provides adventure for young people in the Newton Aycliffe

area. The group is made up of a 'Beaver Colony' ages six to eight, a 'Cub Pack' ages eight to ten½, and a 'Scout Troop' ages ten½ to fourteen.

Martin said: "We were delighted to be able to support the scouts as it does such fantastic work for youngsters living in the Newton Aycliffe community. We are so pleased that Cath and the scouts accepted this donation and joined us for the presentation at the store."

Cath said: "I would like to thank Tesco for this generous donation. The money will help towards the daily maintenance of the group and paying for trips with the scouts."

Tigers Help The Heroes

Shildon based rugby club the "Durham Tigers" will be taking part in a rugby tournament at Winlaton Rugby Club on Sunday 18th November.

All proceeds will be donated to "Help the Heroes" a cause the club feel very passionately about, "because of the number of young men associated with the game who have died or been seriously injured in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years" says the club secretary, Phil Selby.

The Durham Tigers has been based at Sunnydale Leisure Centre in Shildon since 2010, and they aim to use rugby to provide a hobby for local people of all ages and to help the community by giving young people a focus.

They hold weekly training sessions for people of all ages: On Tuesday evenings they provide training for their open age (16+) team between 6:30 and 8. Also, on Saturdays, between 10 and 11.30 am they provide training for their 3 junior teams:

The under 9's and 11's, the under 13's and the under 15's. They have also received funding for a weekly touch rugby session which is a non contact form of the game and that will be held every Friday between 6-7.30pm. If you wish to join any of these sessions the club welcome you to come along. For more information about the team, or if you are curious about the tournament, like "We are Durham Tigers" on Facebook.

Newton Aycliffe Junior Football Club presents

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Air Ambulance at Work



Last weekend an 86 year old woman was knocked over by a boy on a scooter and her injury was so bad the air ambulance had to land near Williamfield to take her to Hospital. Thanks to Tom Carroll for sending in the photo.

Schools Enjoy Holiday Activities



Pupils from all the primary schools across Newton Aycliffe were invited to be part of the exciting new holiday programme at Woodham Academy during the October half term. The Academy has teamed up with Education Enterprise Legacy to offer specialist dance, gymnastics and sports coaching. Following on from its success in the summer, we have now had over 200 different children take part in the programmes which focus on transition from primary to secondary, and also promotes healthy lifestyles, keeping children active whilst

enjoying sport and physical activity. Lewis Marr, Managing Director "The children have been fantastic, their enthusiasm towards the programmes have been the most fulfilling part of the whole journey here at Woodham Academy. After only a combined two weeks of provision and already seeing over 200 different children participate really does highlight the importance of safe, structured well planned holiday provision here in Newton Aycliffe. We are leading the way

in providing activity programmes for young people, both term time and holiday provision. Our next programme will be February half term where we are hoping to attract new faces to join the fun." Any information on our term time activities at Woodham Academy please get in touch lewis@educationenterprise.co.uk or check the website www.educationenterprise.co.uk

The Taxman is Checking

Business Record Checks restart this month – are you ready? HMRC launched the pilot programme of Business Records Checks (BRC) in April 2011.

This involved checks on the adequacy of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (SMEs) statutory business records.

SMEs are businesses with an annual turnover below £30 million who employ less than 250 people. Up until 17 February 2012, 3,431 BRC had been carried out. These found that 36% of businesses had some issue with their record-keeping of which 10% had issues serious enough to warrant a follow up visit.

HMRC will be sending out letters this month to businesses that it believes may be at risk of keeping inadequate records, advising them that it will be in touch by phone.

The call will take businesses through a set of questions designed to assess their record keeping affairs. SMEs need to take appropriate action now in order to avoid a potential follow up visit.

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SAVE OUR WOODS

The Friends of Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve are asking all local residents to spare a few hours on Sunday 18th November to plant some trees on the reserve which have been donated by the Woodland Trust as part of the Queen's Jubilee Woodland campaign. The Town Council's Environment Officer said "Aycliffe is one of the most wooded towns in the area and in light of all the potential diseases and threats our local trees face at the moment this is a good opportunity to do

something positive to help our local woodlands. There are lots of trees to plant and people of all ages and abilities will be able to help. All tools and equipment will be provided by the Town Council. All we ask is people to come along in suitable clothing and footwear to help out with the planting." Everyone is welcome and the Friends will be meeting at 10.30am at the notice board near Ranulf Court. For further information please contact Steve Cooper on 07779 090842.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

We are always interested in local news stories. We like to feature good news and interesting items on achievements & community service

Tel: Syd
01325 300212
or syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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Team Needs a Goalie and Secretary

Heighington AFC Boys U13's are in need of a Goalkeeper, anyone interested should contact Selwyn Morgan on 07774 624341 (Manager).

Heighington Boys are always recruiting new players and teams of all ages, if you have a Son, Daughter, Niece or Nephew that would like to keep fit and active, also keeping your child off the streets, playing football and learning a little bit about the game, or if you think you could be the next Alex Ferguson and would like to go through your coaching badges and start running your own team then come and join us.

We are also looking for a new Secretary so if you have a little bit of spare time and would like to help your local youth football team please ring for details.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact:

David Brassell Tel: 07870 777779

or email: david.brassell@hotmail.co.uk

U10's Manager

HEART FOUNDATION SHOP NEEDS DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

BHF Newton Aycliffe Shop is urgently appealing to local residents to search through their wardrobes and scour their homes for any unwanted, good quality clothing, handbags, shoes, books, DVDs, CDs and household goods – all of which will help the charity fight heart disease, which remains the UK's single biggest killer.

Last year BHF Shops raised over £31 million for the nation's heart charity, helping thousands of vulnerable heart patients across the country. Donations, which are vital to the charity, are desperately needed. There's something for everyone who has time to help.

Martin Newton, Area Manager says: "We absolutely rely on the support of the local community for both stock donations and volunteering hours. If each household were willing to spend just half an hour having a clear out and donating to their local BHF Shop, they would be helping to save lives, it really is as simple as that. Please help us beat heart disease together and donate your unwanted items to your local BHF Shop."

Late Goals Gift Win to Shildon

FIXTURES

Saturday 17th November: Team Northumbria (H) 3pm

Wednesday 21st November: Whitley Bay (H) 7.30pm

Saturday 24th November: Guisborough Town (A) 3pm

Saturday 1st December: Durham City (H) 3pm

Saturday 8th December: Darlington 1883 (H) 3pm

Saturday 15th December: Penrith (A) 3pm

Saturday 22nd December: South Shields (H) 3pm

Newton Aycliffe conceded two goals in the last nine minutes to throw away what would have been another cracking derby win at Shildon last week.

A week after defeating West Auckland, Aycliffe undid a lot of good work by gifting Shildon two late goals, but deserved at least a point from their nearest rivals.

The Newtonians led the game thanks to Fred Woodhouse's 30th-minute strike and looked good for the three points after being the better side for an hour.

But in a cruel twist, Shildon turned the game on its head, with skipper Richard Flynn equalising in the 81st minute before Adam Johnston's 30-yard free-kick five minutes from time clinched all three points for the Railwaymen.

The visitors started brightly and in the 13th minute a great build-up from Stuart Owen and Danny Earl fashioned a half-chance for Woodhouse, but he flashed across goal from 18 yards.

Martin Young's driving run in the 23rd minute saw the ball fall to Kris Hughes but his effort was saved by

Shildon keeper Keith Finch. Aycliffe's opener came on the half-hour, albeit somewhat fortuitously, when Owen's long ball into the box was controlled by Woodhouse in the channel and his miss-hit left-footed cross sailed into Finch's top corner.

The Blues Aycliffe failed to deal with a 44th-minute free-kick into the box and Ben Wood steered the loose ball just over from six yards.

Shildon threatened four minutes into the second half when Mark Hudson's corner was punched clear to John Brackstone who volleyed over from 25 yards.

Finch was forced into an excellent save in the 60th minute when he had to tip Young's dipping 20-yarder over the bar.

Jamie Owens fashioned some space on the edge of the box and rocketed a left-footed effort just past the post and bar in the 67th minute.

Then in the 72nd minute, a speculative clearance saw Ben Wood outstrip his brother Mark and lob the stranded Pocklington from 25 yards, but the ball luckily landed just wide.

Shildon's leveller came with nine minutes to go. Aycliffe didn't fully clear a corner, Brackstone's ball in was headed across goal by Billy Greulich and Flynn stooped to head home inside the six-yard box.

Johnston fired a 30-yard free-kick past Pocklington into the top right-hand corner in the 85th minute to complete a late win for the hosts.

Team: Pocklington, Wood (Hinchley, 84), Oliver, Craddock, Peck, Tarling, Owen, Young, Earl, Woodhouse (Broom, 82), Hughes. Unused: Knox, Seymour, Lambert.

Problems of the Long Distance Bus User

Dear Sir,

My recent reduction in income has meant using bus services more. You can argue about the cost of fares but if you do not have your own transport, being restricted to where you live day in day out, especially when mobility is a problem, can get you down.

It does me good to have social interaction and get out rather than be looking at four walls or going to the supermarket just for something to do.

There seems to be very little in the way of social things to do on our town so you do need to travel to the neighbouring towns.

There are many free or low cost events we could possibly travel to via a bus in neighbouring towns even Durham City has some, but even if you can travel it is impossible to connect with another bus route or catch a late bus home.

It is virtually impossible to travel to Spennymoor/Stockton after 6pm. I can by adding extra miles to the journey going to Teesside via Durham, but if I want to see an event in stockton and take a late bus home, I have to go to Durham and connect with the last available bus this way which terminates at Ferryhill. It is along walk from there home!

The last number 7 completes approx 75% of it's route so if you need to reach Newton Aycliffe or Darlington you

are stranded.

If you attempt to come home via Durham to Bishop Auckland via other services chances are you will be left in Bishop Auckland, So if you cannot afford a taxi or have no one to share the cost, you are unable to have social contact in the evening. We only have two routes remaining, Darlington to Bishop Auckland or Durham to Darlington. If you live in Durham City you still have many services and some late buses that take you further North or into Teesside but the southern part of the county is poorly served. It would not be so bad if the final late night buses would at least connect with other routes and the 7 bus service would at least complete the route.

It's a similar situation to the letter written by Samantha English in Newton News trying to come home to Aycliffe Village. It might be acceptable if buses were less frequent but that they at least can connect with another service or they don't stop in the middle of a route.

We are being neglected in this part of the County and I overheard two bus drivers talking and it all comes down again to cutbacks in subsidies from the County Council. The other week a Government minister was on the radio saying that the bus services the public endure is very bad and needs improving. How many years has that been said? Anthony Parkin

Village W.I. Celebrate First Year

This month we are one year old and we are inviting friends old and new to join us on Saturday 24th November in the Village Hall, where we will be serving Brunch and Afternoon Tea from 11.00am - 5.00pm.

Admission is £1 for adults (includes entry into Treasure Hunt) and 50p for children (includes free Christmas Craft Session).

There will also be raffles, tombola, cakes, cards, crafts and much more. So why not drop in, we would love to see you. For more details ring Kathy on 01325 315732



A PACT Meeting will be held at Aycliffe Village Hall on Saturday 24th November 2012, from 11am to 12noon.

Please come along and get updates on local issues and have your say on any issues that you may have. Councillors and Livin Representatives have been invited.

PC Alan Thompson and PCSO Richard Scott are your Community Police Officers please come and meet them.



24th November 11am till 5pm

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FESTIVE FLOWERS

Shildon & District Flower Club present Festive Magic with Andrew Grisewood at Shildon Civic Hall on Monday 26th November.

Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets cost £5 for members and £7 for guests and there will be a raffle and stalls. Andrew Grisewood is a National Demonstrator from Hayton, York.

Loud Din at Firework Display

Dear Sir,

I thank our Town Council for the great firework display which I attended with my son, however it was completely spoiled by the dreadful noise - I won't call it music! It was so loud it not only assaulted my ears, but the very ground I stood on vibrated. I am sure the people of Shildon would have heard the noise.

I usually enjoy the crackle and bangs of fireworks but this was impossible as the din from the sound system was so overpowering.

This was supposed to be a visual display of fireworks not a Rap Concert.

A. Humble.

LOCAL HERO

Aycliffe Nurse Angela Landells of Ann Swyft Road has been nominated by the NHS for a "Hero" award. Angela is a Captain in the T.A. Medics who train at the Barnard Armoury in Greenwell Road.

She recently returned from Afghanistan and then contracted breast cancer and underwent an operation from which she is now recovering. Angela, whose family came from Glasgow, has lived in the town from the age of four when she attended Sugar Hill School and later the Avenue School.

On Remembrance Sunday she was with her T.A. Unit laying a Poppy wreath at the town War Memorial.

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With age, muscle decreases and sadly you wave bye bye to leaner days. As this happens it is easy to incur injury, lose mobility and flexibility. Joint pain increases and good co-ordination becomes a thing of the past.

The body retains more fat at 50+, minerals are lost in the bones and thinning can occur. The bones may become fragile normally resulting in broken bones in bad weather and for some Osteoporosis.

Flexibility decreases as ligaments shorten and lose their ability to withstand stress. Muscles lose size, strength, and motor skills especially co-ordination, giving you the simple answer to why you lose balance and have falls or tumbles.

Activity at the correct level helps us as we go through life. In an average person our cardiovascular system declines by approx. 30% from 30-70 years, which is a natural process, but this can be helped by activity and regular exercise which can slow the physiological changes of ageing by as much as 50%.

This can result in an active 60 years old having a more efficient cardiovascular system than an inactive 25 years old. Weight bearing exercises and low impact cardio exercises reduce the risk of osteoporosis, tones fat, tones muscles, reduces bone fractures later in life, reduce frequency of falls, will make the body more mobile and less stiff gradually increasing flexibility.

This is your chance to make the change with Exercise 50+ Fitness Classes. A fun, friendly and sociable class with qualified instructor. Classes cost £3.50 per week starting Thursday 22nd November from 10-11am, Aycliffe Village Hall. Also Legs, Bums and Tums Classes 16yrs+, Heighington Village Hall every Thursday 6-7pm - £3.50. Enquires to Alex on 0777 4513389.

Sports Stars at Big Club



Almost 150 Newtonians packed the Big Club on 2nd November as darts legend Andy 'The Viking' Fordham and ex-Rangers and Scotland international goalkeeper Andy Goram joined forces for a charity sportsman's evening. The night began with a few hopeful punters taking their chance at the Oche against the Viking when spurred on by the crowd, the big fella remained victorious. A good old fashioned pie and pea supper kept hunger at bay. As the beer flowed, the audience roared with laughter as Goram told tales of the days he lost to drink and capers he got up to along the way with Ally McCoist and the legendary Gazza. Comedy by local lad and compere Steve Walls led the evening to a grand finale, an exhibition match between Phil Nixon aka The Ferryhill Flyer and The Viking. On home turf and spurred on by his own very vocal supporters, it was The Ferryhill Flyer who took the glory.

The generosity of local businesses and individuals made for a charity auction jam-packed with top sporting memorabilia including signed Sunderland, Darlington, Chelsea and Newcastle shirts, as well as a signed Chelsea football which sold for a whopping £150! The event, organised by local lads Michael Rippon and Robert Scott, the event was arranged to raise funds for two local charities; the Just Say Yes Fund and Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. With

the final sum raised reaching £1,850 there's no doubt many have already been asking "When's the next one?!" Jaime Hume, representative for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, "Sincere thanks from the charities go to those who organised, donated and bought a ticket to make the night such a success." Michael and Robert would like to thank the Big Club for the use of the facilities, the Huntsman and Turbinia for their help in organising the darts equipment, Walker's butchers for providing the pie and peas and Newton Press for the printed materials. Finally, big thanks to all our family and friends for their assistance in making the night such a great success!

Archbishop Visits Aycliffe

The Bishop of Durham, Justin Welby, soon to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury will be officiating at the 10am Eucharist at St. Clare's Church on Sunday 2nd December.

This is a rare opportunity to hear and meet the Archbishop and everyone is invited. The children's choir "Shine" will be part of the Service and refreshments will be served in the church hall afterwards.

WILDCATS LOSE TO PLYMOUTH IN AYCLIFFE TV MATCH

Durham welcomed the Sky Sports cameras to town for their encounter against BBL title hopefuls Plymouth Raiders, looking to bounce back with an improved performance after Friday's defeat against the London Lions.

It was a fine display to start the game for the Wildcats taking an early 7-2 lead with Keith Page at the fore front of the action scoring early from three which seemed to settle Elderkin's side. Despite Plymouth tying the game midway through the

quarter the Wildcats kept their visitors at an arm's length with Durham holding the lead 18-16 on the buzzer.

The tables turned in Plymouth's favour when they went on an 8-2 scoring run to give them their first lead of the game with Schneck and Barnett working well under the basket. The Raiders had full control in the second quarter boosting their lead to a 13 point gap before taking advantage of a poor defensive display by the Wildcats creating a 21 point lead

at the end of the second quarter as the score board stood at 31-52.

Wildcats found themselves in a scoring crisis with the Raiders firing on all cylinders in the third quarter with O'Reilly make a huge impact for Plymouth as they made an offensive statement gradually increasing their lead with Jeremy Bell showing why he will be in contention once again for league M.V.P. Durham couldn't compete with the Raiders outside shooting and found themselves 40 points down at the end of the quarter with the score at 45-85.

Both sides were trading baskets early in the final stanza but it was Plymouth once again who continued their scoring streak breaking the 100 mark with over 5 minutes left on the clock. The Wildcats looked to shorten the deficit but the Raiders kept charging on and scoring on the buzzer to end a poor performance, 68-118.

A very disappointed Coach, Dave Elderkin commented "Very disappointed to say the least. We are all going to put this weekend's games behind us and move onto the next game where we will be looking to bounce back."

MVP - Jeremy Bell (Plymouth Raiders) 27 points and 7 rebounds, Jeremy showed why he is one of the best players in the league at this game and Durham struggled to control him.

Wildcats - Andrew Keister, 16 points. Keith Page, 14 points. Mike Baldarelli, 10 points. Raiders - Jeremy Bell, 27 points. Michael Ojo, 22 points. Colin O'Reilly, 22 points.

Sponsor for Under 12's Team



Heighington Boys Under 12's, who play their matches in the Russell Foster 9v9 Premier League, and who are managed and coached by Jim Barr and Scott McConville are pleased to announce that Neil Plews of Darlington Car and Commercial has again agreed to sponsor our youth football team. The team is doing very well this season and currently sit in 4th spot and are into the quarter finals of the League Cup. To celebrate this event, the players spent a morning Laser questing at Planet Leisure, and visited sponsor Neil Plews at DCC to thank him for his continued support and new jackets.

The Club itself is about to move into it's new £70K Clubhouse on the 17th of November, and is currently

hoping to set up development teams, and is also looking for a Secretary to strengthen the management team. Anyone

interested in this position or willing to become involved in a new team, please contact Jim Barr on 07899 862 079.

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Gardener Asks for Help After Thieves Steal Tools

Phil Thompson a local gardener for over 20yrs, advertising his service in Newton News, had his garage broken into and all the tools he uses to earn a living have been stolen.

Because he has gone so long without any problems he didn't feel the need to get insurance on his garage, so he has lost everything and has no money to buy new.

Phil is devastated and unable to earn a living so he is asking readers if they could help him with any unwanted tools they could donate. Please contact him on 01325 788508 or paul on 19751995@hotmail.co.uk Paul

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LEATHER sofa, 2 seater, very good condition, £50; Fridge freezer, Bosch, white, £25; Washing machine, Moon Indesit, silver with blue door, £80; York fitness heavy duty weights bench with squat rack and leg extensions, including good selection of golds gym metal weights, £80. Tel 07870 496445

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GIRLS pro bike, 22" wheels, 15 gears, excellent condition, £40. Tel 07970 901330

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Two Murders at Heighington Aycliffe Grown Beyond its Infrastructure



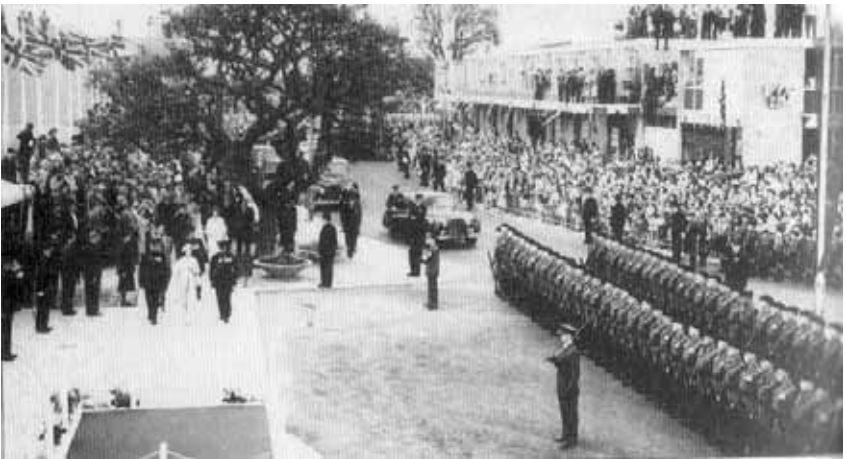
Two murders took place at The Transylvanian Hotel (AKA Heighington Village Hall) at a sell out Murder Mystery Night which raised funds for St Michael’s Church, Heighington and St Andrew’s Church, Bolam building repair funds. The audience of over 100 people entered into the spirit of the night by coming suitably dressed for the occasion. They were well fed and entertained and the sleuths in the audience had a challenge on their hands to uncover the perpetrator of the heinous crime. Organiser Andrew Maxwell thanked Barclays Bank for their welcome support in providing matching funding from their Community Fund and as a result it is hoped that the event will raise a much needed £1500 to be split between the two Churches. Thanks are also due to the parishioners of Bolam who prepared the delicious three course meal and to the cast and other helpers.

1st Year Under New Owners



HC-One’s first birthday party took place on 1st November, 2012 at 2pm attended by the Mayor Val Raw, Deputy Mayor Barbara Clare. Wendy Walker, Defoe Court’s new Home Manager is also shown at the cake cutting ceremony. Entertainment was provided by Mark Hodgson who sang a variety of songs from the 60’s and 70’s. The birthday party theme was “Awards Night at the Oscars” and Lesley Joss, a member of staff along with her pet dog, took first prize dressed as Dorothy and Toto from the Wizard of Oz. All residents, friends and family members agreed it was a wonderful afternoon. “We would like to thank Honest John, on behalf of residents and staff at Defoe Court, for his generous donation of £250.00 to the Residents Fund for Christmas treats.” said Wendy.

Town Centre Trees Lost



Dear Sir
Does any one remember this day, in 1960, when Queen Elizabeth came to the town? Does any one remember those trees she walked under? What a great shame they will never be seen again. I, like many others, await the reason for their removal. Andy Spark

Dear Sir,
There is a plan ‘in principle’ to develop a greenfield site at Low Copelaw on the other side of the A167 opposite Moore Lane.,
From my perspective, albeit without knowing the detail, I regard this as an unwelcome development, as I feel we have enough brownfield, and we should avoid further encroachment into the countryside.
Newton Aycliffe has already grown to a substantial size which seems larger than merited by its infrastructure. The A167 and roads in town already seem too congested at certain times of the day. The town does not have the facilities or infrastructure of a Darlington, and indeed Darlington itself has become overcongested because it has grown beyond its infrastructure, and it would be awful if Newton Aycliffe went down the same route. This development would place further pressure on the A167 in particular, as well as town facilities in general. Furthermore, is there really a demand for further new homes in Newton Aycliffe? The housing market isn’t exactly buoyant at the moment, and further supply could weaken the values of existing properties and/or the ability of homeowners to sell.
John Snowball

Births
CUNNINGHAM Lynn and Katie, 8/11/2012. Congratulations on the birth of your beautiful Son “Evan George”. Love always, Mam, Pa, Paul, Liam, Anthony, Becky. Special x from Summer for her new Cousin Evan xxx
CUNNINGHAM Lynn and Katie. Congratulations to you both on the birth of your gorgeous baby boy “Evan”. Love from all Aunts, Uncles and Cousins, Granda and Angel Gran xxx

Thank You
BRENDAN BERMINGHAM Susan, Joan and all the family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy shown during our recent sad bereavement and for the many cards, flowers and donations received. A special thanks to David and the staff of the Co-operative Funeral Care and to Father Campion for his comforting Service and not forgetting all the staff in ITU Ward (1) Darlington Memorial Hospital who cared for Brendan. Thanks to Andy and Staff at the Burtree Inn
JOHN MURPHY Thomason and the family of the late John Murphy would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement.

Birthday Remembrance
SARAH TEMPLE 21st November. Thinking of you Sarah on your birthday. Never forgotten, loved always. Uncle David, Auntie Ruth, Andrew, Nathan and Niall xxx
SARAH TEMPLE 21st November. I can not send a birthday card, your hand I cannot touch. A daily thought, a silent tear, a constant wish that you were here. Happy birthday Sarah. I love and miss you so much. Na-Na
SARAH TEMPLE 21st November. As time goes by the emptiness grows, we miss you more than anyone knows. Our heart still aches with sadness, the secret tears still flow for what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Happy birthday Princess. Love always, Mam and Dad xxx
SARAH TEMPLE 21st November. Gone are the days we shared together, but in my heart you are there forever. Happy birthday Sarah. Love from Michael xxx
SARAH TEMPLE 21st November. Birthday wishes we are sending today to a star in the sky not far away. Engraved in gold on a cloud above, just for you Sarah with all our love. Happy birthday sweetheart. Love from Nana and Uncle Barry xxx
SARAH TEMPLE 21-11-1986. Those special memories of you will always bring a smile. Happy birthday Sarah. Love and miss you always, Wendy xxx
RITA ANN CHAPE 18/11/1952 to 12/06/2006. Happy birthday Rita. I still miss you so much. Love, Vaughan
RITA ANN CHAPE If I could have one wish today, it would not be for gold. But just to see your smiling face and hear you say “hello”. Love from Mam and Colin
RITA ANN CHAPE 18th November. Thinking of you Mam on your birthday. Just wish you were here to enjoy the day. Thank you for so many happy memories. Lots of love, Martyn, Nicola and Natalie xxx

Obituary
BARION
Newton Aycliffe
November 8th, peacefully after an illness borne with great courage and dignity. Jacqueline (Jacky) nee Holmes aged 56 years, dearly loved wife of Peter, loving mam of Rachel, beloved daughter of Sheila and Sid, devoted grandma to Lucas and dear sister to Leslie. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral took place on Friday 16th November. Donations can be made in lieu in aid of either The Motor Neurone Disease Association or The Butterwick Hospice and may be given to or will be accepted by Bryan A. Shepherd, Whitehouse Funeral Service, Surtees House, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN. Tel: 01325 318600. Thanks to all friends and family for words of comfort and support.
DAWSON
November 10th, suddenly at home. Richard aged 42 years. Much loved son of Kathleen and Michael, beloved brother of Carol, Patrick, Stashia, Kathleen and the late Mick also a dear father of Courtney. Funeral Thursday November 22. Would friends kindly meet for Service in St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Newton Aycliffe at 11.30am followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium at 12.30pm.

Congratulations

James Raine

Happy 18th Birthday

to a very special young man. All our love, Nanna and Grandad, Dad xx
Grandma and Grandad Mum and Amelia Daisy Xx
Katey, John, Jack, Ollie and Ellis Xx
Paul, Nikki, Iris and Cambell Xx
Great Nanna Raine and Great Nanna Weldon and Great Aunty Linda xx

Vivienne Bell

Happy 50th Birthday

21st November 2012
Lots of love, Mark, Kai, Emily and Jay xxxx

Caitlin Anne Cairns

Happy 1st Birthday

Love you lots from Mammy, Logan, Granny, Grandad, Uncle Mark, Aunty Bev and Aimee xxxx

Melanie & Ian Mitchinson

Congratulations

on your Silver Wedding, 21st November. Enjoy your special day. Lots of love from Mam xxx
Also lots of love, Mam and Dad on your Silver Wedding. Have a lovely day. From Stacey and Milo xxx

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Aycliffe Polo Player in Wales Team



Rhiannon Foulds 16 from Sedgfield Water Polo club became the first member to represent Wales in the Celtic Junior tournament in Cardiff against Scotland and Ireland. Rhiannon from Newton Aycliffe who is also a member of the Great Britain junior squad impressed everyone with her fast swimming and her sharpness in front of goal. Rhiannon was named the most valuable player of the tournament and won the top scorer award with 9 goals in Wales 17-8 win over Scotland and their 9-6 loss to Ireland. Rhiannon who attends Woodham Academy hopes to be picked for the GB youth team in 2013. She is the 13th player to gain international honours for the Sedgfield club who dominate North East junior polo. If you are interested in playing this fun and exciting game you can get more details on sedgfieldpolo@hotmail.com or 07818 554449. It is especially good for club swimmers.

Successful Swimming Club



Sedgfield 75 Swimming Club have started the new season with a string of successful events. Three of the masters' swimmers competed at the National Masters Short Course championships in Sheffield. Philip Walker finished in bronze position in the 100m Individual Medley and he swam the 100 backstroke in a time of 59.66 seconds, only the

2nd person in the clubs history to achieve this feat. Gillian Hook finished 3rd in the 200m breaststroke and Elisabeth Yaneske finished 4th in the 800m freestyle. Elisabeth has just returned from the Scottish Masters which was held last weekend in Glasgow swimming in the 1500m event and coming away with a silver medal.

Sedgfield 75 swimming club have recently taken part in the annual Wear Valley Guys Fawkes meet and after a successful weekend came away with a total of 20 medals. This was an outstanding achievement considering the squad was mostly made up of young and novice swimmers. Alyssa Craggs (11) lead the medal count with 4 gold and 2 silver followed by Jessica Longmire (15) with 3 silver and 1 bronze, Claudia Chapman 1 silver 2 bronze, Harry Ward (14) 1 silver 1 bronze, Damian Lawson 2 bronze & Callum Cook (13), Mattie Walker-smith (12) and Megan Baker (16) all winning a bronze respectively, other squad members Haydn Craggs (10), Anna Chaytor (12) and

Maisie Nicolson (9) achieved personal bests. This success comes after Sedgfield 75 being awarded District Junior Sports Club of the Year and John Moore winning County Coach of the Year. Club Chairperson Glen Longmire stated "this has been an outstanding year for the club as we have achieved great results at all levels of competition both in and out of the water, all down to the hard work and dedication of the swimmers, coaches and parents, and hopefully we can continue this in 2013".

Aycliffe FC Plan for Darlo Game

Newton Aycliffe are making tickets for their huge derby with Darlington available to buy before the game.

The Northern League club are busy preparing for their biggest game of the season on Saturday 8th December – just three weeks time – when a gate of well over 1000 is predicted.

The Quakers have regularly taken well over 1000 to other clubs around the North-East as they bid to climb the non-league pyramid system, having been demoted four divisions in the summer.

For the first time, they're making tickets available to buy in advance – either from behind the bar at Newton Aycliffe Sports Club (Moore Lane, DL5 5AG) or via the club's online shop at www.nafc-online.co.uk – with admission priced £5 adults and £3 concessions (Under-16s and Over-65s).

On the day, those who have bought tickets will gain quicker access to the ground through a ticket-only gate, though there will be a cash-only turnstile for others.

Another Northern League club had attracted a raft of complaints and negative publicity after doubling their

ticket prices for the Darlo game. And although tickets bought online will carry a small admin charge to cover postage costs, Aycliffe made a conscious decision not to take advantage of the Quakers faithful.

General manager Dan Lewis said: "With a big crowd expected it brings a lot of extra responsibilities for the club. Fortunately we've had the experience of big crowds before at the ground and that has helped with our preparations."

"By putting tickets on sale, we can guarantee the fans access to the game and ensure they're not stuck in a large queue on the day. We want everyone to have a thoroughly enjoyable time at Moore Lane Park and we hope those who are coming for the first time will be back again in the future."

Those who are looking to buy tickets on the day are advised to arrive early to avoid delays. The club are hoping to break the Moore Lane Park record of 1,307, achieved in 2010 when the Quakers beat Aycliffe 2-1 in a pre-season friendly.

The date when tickets will go on sale and car park information will be publicised in the Newton News shortly.

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Xmas Fair

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