

Oak Leaf Sports Complex
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The Management and Staff would like to wish all our customers a Very Merry Christmas

Please note we will be closed on 25th, 26th December and 1st January 2013

NEWTON NEWS

elachi
indian restaurant

1 Upper Beveridge Walkway
Town Centre DL5 4EE
(next to Steven Russell)
TELEPHONE:
01325 316516

WE ARE NOW TAKING BOOKINGS FOR XMAS PARTIES & NEW YEARS EVE

Newton Press, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 6DX • Tel: (01325) 300212 • Web: www.newtonnews.co.uk • Editorial: syd@newtonnews.co.uk • Advertising: paul@newtonnews.co.uk Week Ending 21st December, 2012

NEW BUS SERVICE STARTING 2nd JANUARY

The Scarlet Band 16/ 16A ends on the 31st December 2012. The new Central Coaches 116 starts 2nd January 2013. The new Scarlet Band 16A starts on the 2nd of January 2013. The new 16A will have a Monday-Friday and a Saturday Timetable, but only run one bus to Darlington early in the morning and one back from Darlington in the late afternoon! [Not Darlington to Newton Aycliffe in the morning and back in the afternoon!] The route will be via School Aycliffe and Heighington. The Link 2 service is available for some and the new 16A Timetable should be available soon at Newton Aycliffe Library. It is online on the County Durham Interactive Bus Map Website, via "View Changes to forthcoming Timetables." It should also appear soon on the Scarlet Band Website! "Helping Hand."

STAR CABS

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Party Promotions

- Party Lashes & Eyebrows Wax £12.00
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- Spray Tan & Nail Extensions (French Tip or Glitter Nails) £25.00
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- HD Brows To Go & Party Lashes £18.00
- Half Leg Wax, Bikini & Underarm Wax £20.00
- Eyebrow Wax & Tint £10.00

Offers valid till 5th January 2012
Not in conjunction with any other offer.

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Independent Family Funeral Directors

A caring personal service, from a local family business,
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New Office & Private Chapels of Rest Now Open

Cobblers Hall Village Centre
Burn Lane, Newton Aycliffe
(01325) 319519

Golden Charter Funeral Home

TESCO REWARDS ROTARY CLUB'S COMMUNITY SERVICE



Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club has received a cheque for £500 from the Tesco Extra Store on Burn Lane for their annual Christmas collection for local families in need. Each year, for the last six years, Tesco have allowed club members to collect in store with Father Christmas

for the appeal. The proceeds purchase around 50 hampers for Social Services to distribute to clients who need help during the festive season. Store manager, Martin Butcher said: "It is great to have the charity at the store and we are happy to continue our work together. The Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club provides an excellent service for those in our community who are in need and are

especially needy throughout the festive season." Tesco provide the goods at below retail value and pack the hampers for the Newton Aycliffe Rotary Club which is a great help. President of the club, Roger Curtis said: "We have enjoyed a great relationship with Martin Butcher and his staff over many years and we are very grateful for the assistance we receive."

KAB TAXIS
4, 7 and 8
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316203
A2B 314545

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25kg Bag, 2 for £10
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01325 301379
info@beaumontgm.co.uk Est 1965

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Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN

Contact: Bryan A Shepherd & John Whitehouse

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Voucher does not apply to NHS tests | Call in or phone for your appointment

Tel: 01325 31 99 22
4 Cobblers Hall Village Centre | Burn Lane | Newton Aycliffe

THE FORESTERS ARMS
Coatham Mundeville, Darlington 01325 320565

DECEMBER OFFERS
Two x 8oz Rib Eye Steaks and a Bottle of Wine - £25*
Also serving 20oz Rib Eye Steaks!

Food Served Wednesday-Saturday 12noon-9pm
Sunday Lunch 12noon-6pm

*Subject to availability

THE WINDOW GUY

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- Soffits • Brickwork •

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• Broken Locks • Leaks •

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PROMOTION
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plus no registration fee

"ALL TOGETHER AS ONE"
At Little Acorns we offer a wide range of child care services for children from 8 weeks to 11 years old which includes

- Four dedicated play rooms • Breakfast/After school club
- Holiday Club • 15 hours of Early Years Funding for 3 year olds
- 15 hour for referred 2 year olds • 5 Star kitchen

We provide an environment that is safe and secure for your children and we aim to make their time here as enjoyable as possible, whilst developing and learning through play

If you are interested please come and take a look!

OPENING TIMES:
Monday - Thursday 7.30am - 6.00pm • Friday 7.30am - 5.30pm
Please contact Fiona on 01325 309100
Email: mylittleacorns@aol.com

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North East

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- * All levels of fitness for both Men and Women
- * Air conditioned studios
- * Creche facilities available
- * Personal training sessions



Sharon

07879 996728

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Christmas and New Year timetable available on the Web and Facebook.

www.aspirefitnessaycliffe.co.uk

Facebook: Aspire Fitness and Health

Durham Way North, Aycliffe Industrial Park, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6HP

SANTAS CHRISTMAS EVE TOUR OF NEWTON AYCLIFFE

ROUTE ONE 3.45pm-4.10pm Welbury, St Oswalds, Central 4.10pm-5.00pm Washington area, Wycliffe, Armstrong, Wren, Whitehead, Hutchinson, Hylton, Matthew, Wolsey,	Richardson, Trevor, St Aidans, Felton 5.00pm -5.30pm Neile, Defoe, Trevor, Porter, Wheeler, Lamb, Espin, Bellasis 5.30pm-6.00pm Wiseman, Ewbank, Hardinge,	Chandler, Chapman, Crowley, Hardinge, Bousefield, Faber, Kendrew, Sanderson, Redworth Grange, Elstob, Burn, Westmorland, Henson, Whiteley, Thurlow, Aylmer 6.00pm - 6.45pm Dalton, Hartley, Faulkner, Hullock, Allington, Walcher, Lilburne, Macmillan, Bertie, Alington, Webb, Westmorland, Newburn 6.45pm -7.30pm Humphrey, Silkin, Stead, Wright, Priestman, Marshall, Burdon, Lightfoot, Stephenson 7.30pm - 8.10pm Barrington, Ashfield, Tunstall, Carileph, Ebba, Bruce, Pease, Past RAFA club to Paulinus 8.15pm Back via Pease	Palmer, Cosin 4.45pm-5.15pm Co-operative Store, Bury, Wilkinson, Van Mildert, Greathead, Shafto, and return to Greville, St Cuthberts 5.30pm-6.00pm Sharp, Sheraton Road, Sheraton Close, Greville, Henderson, Crewe, Sharp, Hunter, Lumley, Sheraton, Crawford, Sheraton, Biscop 6.00pm-6.25pm Hatfield, Heild, Biscop, Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck 6.25pm-7.15pm Via Shafto to Creighton, Moore, Swan, Gunn, Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny, Carr, Markham, Secker, Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer, Vane, Fowler, Warburton, Jackson 7.15pm -7.40pm Shafto Way, Shield Walk, Stanfield Road, Denham Place, Ramsey Place, Eden Road, Langley Road, Malling Green 7.40pm-8.00pm Central Avenue (Fire Station), Church Close	Forrester, Smythsons, Sheppards, Thursby, Wilbore, High Barn, Meatlesburn 5.30pm-6.10pm Springfields, Hazelrigg, Lowfields, Hansard, Jennison, Westfields, Hillfields, Greenfield 6.10pm-6.30pm Malvern, Colwell, Bedford, Hunter, Lumley, Sheraton, Crawford, Sheraton, Biscop 6.00pm-6.25pm Hatfield, Heild, Biscop, Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck 6.25pm-7.15pm Via Shafto to Creighton, Moore, Swan, Gunn, Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny, Carr, Markham, Secker, Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer, Vane, Fowler, Warburton, Jackson 7.15pm -7.40pm Shafto Way, Shield Walk, Stanfield Road, Denham Place, Ramsey Place, Eden Road, Langley Road, Malling Green 7.40pm-8.00pm Central Avenue (Fire Station), Church Close	Meadowfield, Hareson, Cestria 5.00pm-5.45pm Lisle, Lockyer, Hoode, Cheviot, Pennine 5.45pm-6.20pm Bluebell Close, Coverdale, Bluebell Meadows, Wolvestone, Alverton Drive & Court, Hamsterley, Barton, Paxton 6.20pm-7.00pm Lancelot, Temple, Gamul, Raddive, Spooner, Thwaites, Eade 7.00pm-7.45pm Scott, Bakewell, Booth, Bates, Sid Chaplin, Fox, Brockett, Loraine, Thornton, Sampson, Merlin, Kestrel	4.15pm-5.10pm Ropemoor, Forster, Patenson, Wakenham, Youens, Haselwood, Blackiston, Carwardine, Karles, Bloomesley 5.10pm-5.20pm Acle Burn and Meadows, St. Andrews, Ryder, Agnew, Kings 6.00pm-6.10pm Ida, Osbert, Guthrum, Osric, Aldfrid, Wellhouse, Morrison, Tanfield, Stargate, The Ballarat 6.15pm-7.00pm Kimblesworth, Fenhall 6.15pm-7.00pm Hutton, Callerton, Deleval, Elemore, Phoenix, Brockwell 7.00pm-8.00pm Heatherburn, Foxton, Herrington, Hardwick, Butterwick, Rushyford, Layton, Woodham
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Superb Local Rockabilly Band

MONDAY 31st DECEMBER 2012

NEWTON AYCLIFFE SPORTS CLUB

Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe

Tickets £10.00 - Food and Disco Included

Tel: 01325 312768 or Email kps56@tiscali.co.uk



* Saturday Night Live *

The Very Best of Rock - Normally NO Cover Charge

Friday 21st December - "Enzymes"

"End of the World Party" - More Details on page 8

Saturday 22nd December - "Overdrive"

"These guys had the best debut gig ever in the pub last year".
 Bio: Overdrive are a dynamic rock covers band playing a selection of classic rock songs from the 60s to now. Taking you through the great ages of music from The Who to Kings of Leon, Madness to Sex Pistols, Deep Purple to Foo Fighters. With an all action front line, a big sound and great lights, this is a band not to be missed".
 Covering tracks by: Stereophonics, Bad Company, Nickleback, The Fratellis, Bowie, Green Day, T-Rex and More. A rare chance to catch these guys FREE in a pub gig, normally play in bigger venues that charge "singing and dancing guaranteed" - these guys know how to party"

Wednesday 26th December - "The Elvis Experience"

"Show of the Month" - One of the Countries Top Elvis Tribute Acts

"MIKE MEMPHIS & THE MEMPHIS BELLES SHOWGIRLS"

Friday 28th December - "Ska-Boom"

All star Ska band "Ska-Boom! UK" are the north easts newest and most exciting Ska music sensation. The privilege of replicating songs by our heroes, such as The Specials, Bad Manners, Madness and other Ska legends is a true honour for us and the actual resemblance of our sound to the original music score is uncanny.

Saturday 29th December - "Captain Rock"

Gig Pit Review from The Tub: "Decided to take it easy and drive to the Turbinia in Newton Aycliffe last night to watch Steve, Lewthy, Al and Marky aka Captain Rock. The second half was a typical CR performance. Steve's a good sound engineer and he had the mix pretty much spot on with it not being too loud and everything cutting through well. The pub was pretty full and the crowd up for some Christmas shennanigans... shennanigans are a Captain Rock thing as well. Lots of wandering into the crowd, guest appearances galore, standing on chairs, playing the other guitarists guitar with your own baldy head. They even did a couple of Christmas songs at the end getting the crowd to participate. And at last, with the crowd all demanding it and every camera in the house poised, Wrighty revealed what is under that kilt...see pics later. It was proper daft stuff but...and this is where we get back to the first set. Despite all the carry on and showmanship that gets the crowd going, Captain Rock are four very good musicians, playing some very good music.

For more information on bands go to

www.turbiniapub.co.uk or 313034

Free Function Room - Free Disco/Karaoke

Forrester, Smythsons,
 Sheppards, Thursby, Wilbore,
 High Barn, Meatlesburn
5.30pm-6.10pm
 Springfields, Hazelrigg,
 Lowfields, Hansard,
 Jennison, Westfields,
 Hillfields, Greenfield
6.10pm-6.30pm
 Malvern, Colwell, Bedford,
 Hunter, Lumley, Sheraton,
 Crawford, Sheraton, Biscop
6.00pm-6.25pm
 Hatfield, Heild, Biscop,
 Skirlaw, Flynn, Beck
6.25pm-7.15pm
 Via Shafto to Creighton,
 Moore, Swan, Gunn,
 Mellanby, Liddell, Kenny,
 Carr, Markham, Secker,
 Joicey, Kemble, Bulmer,
 Vane, Fowler, Warburton,
 Jackson
7.15pm -7.40pm
 Shafto Way, Shield Walk,
 Stanfield Road, Denham
 Place, Ramsey Place,
 Eden Road, Langley Road,
 Malling Green
7.40pm-8.00pm
 Central Avenue (Fire
 Station), Church Close

ROUTE FIVE
3.45pm - 4.10pm
 Brafferton, Grange, Chilton,
 Grindon, Whitton, Woodham
4.10pm - 4.45pm
 Lowther, Brook, Cartington,
 Mulgrave, Helmsley,
 Middleham, Burleigh,
 Badminton, Stoneleigh,
 Lowther
4.45pm - 5.00pm
 Hickstead, Stag,
 Kennilworth, Cheltenham,
 Gatcome
5.00pm-5.35pm
 Epsom, Kempton, Windsor,
 Fallow, Fawn, Hind, Raby,
 Brancepeth
5.35pm-6.00pm
 Village, Bamburgh,
 Chillingham, Alnwick,
 Barnard, Pemberton,
 Farnham
6.00pm - 6.35pm
 Beaumont, Kirkham,
 Egerton, Dudley, Howson,
 Clover, Sorrel, Yarrow,
 Harebell, Campion
6.35pm
 St. Elizabeth's Church car
 park
6.45pm-7.00pm
 Sandowne, Tattersall,
 The Oaks, Beechers,
 Paddock, Croft, Woodham,
 Sunningdale, Low Green
7.05pm - 7.45pm
 Spinney, High Green,
 Granges 1-4, Bridle,
 Woodham Gate,

LISTEN FOR MY BELLS AS I MAY BE RUNNING LATE

ROUTE SIX
3.45pm-4.20pm
 Hallington, Tindale, Derwent,
 Angram, Scholars, Broomlee,
 Stocks, Waskerley, Fewston,
 Blackton
4.20pm-5.00pm
 Meadowfield, Ladybower,
 Greenlee, Stainmore,
 Winterburn, Grassholme,
 Burnhope, Stainmore,

WOODHAM CHI TAE KWON DO

GET IN SHAPE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Free TaeKwondo Lessons!!

We would like to help you get into shape in the New Year by offering FREE lessons to all new starters during the whole of January 2013. Come and give it a try, we are sure you will enjoy it! If you need any further information please contact Master Kevin Mitchell on 07536 061450



TUESDAYS
6pm - 7pm

SUNDAY
10.30am - 12noon

WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

SELF DEFENCE CONFIDENCE

Pharmacy Festive Opening Hours



ALLIANCE PHARMACY
 78 Beveridge Way - 313505
 Monday 24th December: 9am-1pm + 2pm-6pm
 Monday 31st December: 9am-1pm + 2pm-6pm

BOOTS
 57 Beveridge Way - 300355
 Monday 24th December: 8.30am-6.00pm
 Wednesday 26th December: 10am-4pm
 Monday 31st December: 8.30am-6pm

TESCO PHARMACY
 Greenwell Road - 553447
 Monday 24th December: 8am-10.30pm
 Monday 31st December: 8am-10.30pm

INTRAHEALTH PHARMACY
 27 Bewick Crescent - 321010
 Monday 24th December: 9am-6pm
 Monday 31st December: 9am-6pm

LLOYDS PHARMACY
 2 Pease Way - 318135
 Monday 24th December: 8am-11pm
 Monday 31st December: 8am-11pm

VILLAGE PHARMACY
 PCP Centre, Burn Lane - 311297
 Monday 24th December: 8.30am-1pm + 2pm-5.30pm
 Monday 31st December: 8.30am-1pm + 2pm-5.30pm

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Dubai v Newton Aycliffe - No Contest

Dear Sir,
I love Newton Aycliffe, but now live in Dubai; a thriving metropolis that has just announced multi billion dollar investments to improve its image & infrastructure.
It already boasts the world's tallest building, world's largest shopping mall & the world famous; man-made Palm Jumeirah residence. However, my real home, my heart, my friends and my family are still in Newton Aycliffe.
I read the Newton News on line every week with avid interest and I am always amazed at how the people support their community. Only this week I saw an article on the youth, with whom I was once associated, managing the development team of Newton Aycliffe Junior FC.
In Dubai I proudly promote our town as a beacon for the best of the North East of England. The town should be proud of their community, schooling & local volunteers who enhance the quality of life for others. The introduction of Aldi as an alternative customer outlet should also be praised.
However when I look at the schematics for the potential development of the town centre I am dismayed. The images display a sense of optimism with ideas of many young people coming into the town but the only changes I can visualise from those images are a few more trees, block paving and rearrangement of the seating areas.
I sincerely hope that I am wrong but after 21 years of living in the town I love and still regard as my home, to where I will return, I can only hope that the vision of the planners can look beyond the aesthetics and address the real issues of improving our town centre.
It requires real vision and maybe even incentives for quality outlets to come here. I'm not sure if the problem lies with greedy landlords who may charge exorbitant rents, or a lack of vision from our leaders, or even the financial restrictions resulting from the current economic climate.
However I wish we could, one day, develop a town centre of which we all can be proud, with shops & amenities that serve the local community and provide a positive future for all.
David Prior

60 YEARS WEDDING CELEBRATION IN DEFOE COURT CARE HOME



On the 13th December Ray and Jan Hardy celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary at Defoe Court where Jan is a resident. The Care Home helped with the party and provided entertainment for family and friends, who were joined by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to mark the occasion.
Ray and Jan met when they were in the Army, Jan was a Warrant Officer, and Ray was a Staff Sergeant. Jan was his senior therefore Ray had to salute her after saying good night!
They were stationed in Germany for many years and then also in Singapore. Jan left the Forces and as Ray was still in the regular Army they lived at Ipswich then Catterick. When Ray left the Army, the couple lived in various places in the North East.
In Jan's younger days she worked in the War Office on Winston Churchill's staff, in the War Bunker, but has never talked about her role as she was subject to the Official Secrets Act.
When Ray retired they went to live in Pitlochry and Aberfeldy in Scotland eventually returning to the North East and settling in Aycliffe Village. Due to Jan's health problems she is now in Defoe Court Care Home. Ray lives nearby in a bungalow and though confined to a wheelchair visits her every day on his mobile scooter.



Kick start the New Year with an
Aloe Vera Detox Package
and you could lose between 4-14lbs

Group and Early Purchase Discounts
are available if purchased before 28-12-12

Great way to give your overloaded
system the boost it deserves.

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SALE - UP TO 50% OFF R.R.P.

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Free delivery within 20 miles

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all

Hypnotherapy for Health
at Peaseway Clinic

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Smoking • Weight • Phobias
Management • Anxiety + More

FESTIVE ISSUES OF NEWTON NEWS

No Issue Week Ending Friday 28th December

Friday 4th January 2013 - New Year Issue
Deadline: Wednesday 2nd January

Advertisements can be placed at our agents:
WALKERS at Simpature,
NEWSFORCE in the Town Centre
 or online at www.newtonnewsads.co.uk

Office Opening Times

Closing 3pm on Friday 21st December
 Skeleton Staff in attendance until reopening
 on Wednesday 2nd January 2013 at 8.30am

The Management
and Staff of Newton Press
and Newton News would like
to wish all Newtonians a
Merry Christmas and
Happy, Prosperous New Year

STEPTOE 'n' SON

Metal and Waste
Recycling Specialists
All rubbish removal work.
Domestic & Commercial
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Landlords, Save £££s
All scrap metal & electrical
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House clearance a speciality.
Call for a free estimate
One call, Steptoe sorts it all!
Tel: 01325 789203
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Christmas Carol Service

ALL WELCOME

6pm, Sunday 23rd December

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Shafto Way, Newton Aycliffe

✓ 1st Class Facilities ✓ 1st Class Care

House of Eden

'Little things that count'

✓ 1st Class Facilities ✓ 1st Class Care

House of Eden Children's Nurseries

Cobblers Hall	Manager: Jan Hooper	01325 329931
Aycliffe Village*	Manager: Tina Elmar	01325 313513
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

1st Class

*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding

PCP Staff Awards at Xmas Party

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) wanted to recognise the importance of its staff this Christmas and the part everyone plays in the delivery of PCP's mission: 'to improve people's health, wellbeing and quality of life'. This year, staff were asked to nominate their colleagues for 3 separate awards along with a 4th award decided by the management board. The results of the Staff Award Scheme were announced at the Christmas staff dinner and party, Jane Hartley, Chief Executive of the PCP presented the winners with their very own trophy.

Kirsty Deacon-Brown, Marketing & Arts Co-ordinator was awarded with the Creative Thinker/Great Idea Award/Bright Spark Award for her success and enthusiasm in raising the profile of the PCP and for the delivery of Colour Your Life, Arts on Prescription programme.

Outstanding Service to other Employees Award went to Sandra Roberts, Administration Officer for her flexibility and co-operation. Sandra has gone beyond her normal job requirements to deliver an 'outstanding' service with positivity.

Liz Godfrey, Learning and Guidance Co-ordinator was awarded the Unsung Hero Award for being consistently reliable, adaptable and often going beyond the call of duty. The Chairperson's Special Award was presented to Angie Cooke, Project Administration Co-ordinator for her outstanding commitment to the whole organisation.

Jane Hartley said "The staff awards are PCP's way of showing them how valued they are; not just by the management but by colleagues. The winners have made a significant impact over the last year in helping us build a better organisation and provide better services and outcomes for our service users, volunteers and staff.

A massive 'Well done and thank you' to everyone, not just to the overall winners but to all staff, volunteers and board of directors for their hard work and commitment in helping us achieve so much this year."

The PCP runs the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe, keep an eye on local

press to see a whole host of new activities, classes and courses starting in the New Year.

For further information contact the PCP on 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net website: www.pcp.uk.net.



Kirsty and Jane



Jane and Sandra



Chairperson Carol and Angie

Christmas & New Year Bin Collections

People in County Durham are being asked to check for changes to their refuse and recycling collections over Christmas.

Bins will be emptied as normal up to and including Friday, 21st December, with the following changes over Christmas and New Year.

TUESDAY COLLECTION will be on Thursday, 27 December and Wednesday, 2 January

WEDNESDAY COLLECTION will be on Friday, 28 December and Thursday, 3 January

THURSDAY COLLECTION will be on Saturday, 29 December and Friday, 4 January

FRIDAY COLLECTION will be on Monday, 31 December and Saturday, 5 January

Normal collections will resume on Tuesday, 8 January.

Residents should check their collection calendars for details of all collection dates or go online at www.durham.gov.uk and enter their postcode in the 'My Durham' section.

Details of collections over the festive period are also available at www.durham.gov.uk/holidaybins

Real Christmas trees can be taken to any Household Waste Recycling Centre in the county where they will be composted. Alternatively, call 03000 26 1000 before Monday, 7 January to arrange for a tree to be collected by the council.

Remember to recycle your extra waste this Christmas. Plastic bottles, tubs and trays, metal cans, cardboard packaging, cards and wrapping paper should be placed in the recycling bin. Glass bottles and jars should be put in your recycling box. Find out more about what you can recycle at Christmas by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/recycling

HOW MUCH MORE DID THE THINFORD "IMPROVEMENT" COST?

Dear Sir

On the whole I agree with Michael Wild on Thinford Roundabout. In its present state it is flawed and dangerous most especially in respect of the three lanes exiting towards the 167 North.

They are not helped in any way by the remains of the 'traffic management measures' - mainly cones - which confuse entrance and exit lanes. Hopefully they will soon be removed; most probably only to reinforce the ranks of cones on the next roundabout north !

This work has been a prolonged nightmare of delays; even well beyond the extended schedules. In this age of austerity and transparency I think the full costs should be published together with the original estimated figure. My guess is that we can ill afford the difference.

It could well be that there is need for an assurance from Durham County Council that whoever was entrusted with this Thinford 'improvement'

is never again employed by the County.

Council Tax bills in this area are already among the highest in the County without any avoidable and unwelcome hikes.

Doug Whittaker

Wonderful Festive Event at Woodham



Thanks to everyone who attended the Woodham Academy Christmas Fair on Saturday 15th December. It was a wonderfully festive event which left visitors spoilt for choice.

A whole range of activities were on offer from face painting to writing letters to Santa. There were families enjoying Christmas paper crafts, making tree decorations, decorating fabric with glow in the dark dye, and music making.

Santa Claus arrived amid a flurry of excitement and stayed for the whole morning, entrancing the younger children, receiving

letters and hearing what they hope he's going to bring on Christmas Day.

Woodham Sports Academy worked non-stop on table tennis coaching and Woodham Dance Academy ran a carousel of dance workshops throughout the event. We would like to especially thank the Rotary Club of Newton Aycliffe for their tremendous support at the event.

After an exhausting morning of enjoying all the activities on offer, it was time for a well-earned buffet lunch before heading home.

A great time was had by all!

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE LEISURE CENTRE



A large audience attended the annual Community Christmas Concert in the Leisure Centre last Sunday. Our Town Band led the singing of Christmas carols and songs and schools, choirs, dancing groups provided great entertainment. The Mayor passed on her Christmas greetings and the Rev. Mike Dixon gave the Christmas Blessing. Santa Claus made an appearance and the event was a marvellous start to the festive season. This was the 24th year of this popular event organised by the Rotary Club. It was provided free thanks to costs being covered by the Town Council and Councillors Gray, Gittins and Dixon. The Rotary Club wish to thank all the performers for their lovely singing and dancing with special thanks to all the teachers who worked with them to provide the entertainment.



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BELGIUM THERAPISTS VISIT AYCLIFFE

Three speech therapists from Belgium, came to Aycliffe to see the exciting work at the Down Syndrome Education Centre at the PCP run by Maggie Hart. "It is lovely for us to be able to share our successes and experiences internationally and the therapists thoroughly enjoyed being here in the North East" said Maggie. They visited the Friday and



Aycliffe Donated 5,257 Meals to Foodbank



Dear Sir
Tesco would like to thank all their customers who very kindly donated food to their National Foodbank event which was held in store on the 1st and 2nd December. Tesco in Newton Aycliffe asked customers to donate goods from a shopping list of day to day staple goods such as Long Life Milk, Pasta, Cereals, Tinned food, sugar etc. This food was sent to the Foodbank to be distributed to people in need from within the local area. I am delighted to say that through the tremendous generosity of our customers we had enough food to provide 5,257 meals for people in our community.

This included a 30% top up from Tesco against everything that was donated. This was a National Tesco event with over 800 stores involved and over 2 million meals was provided nationally. Due to the resounding success we plan to hold the event again next year. Once again thank you to everyone who donated so generously and to making a real difference to people's lives. Finally may I wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your loyal custom.
Martin Butcher
Store Manager

Saturday groups and are shown with the children in the photograph above. "Our heads are full of ideas that we want to take back to Belgium and we have been inspired by the beautiful children and their parents and their teachers. A special thanks to Maggie for making this trip possible." said Isabelle De Raunter, Co-ordinator of SAPHIR, Brussels.

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Wind the clock back sixty years to the days of World War II and hear tales of heroes and spies with visits to RAF Coningsby, the home of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, The Imperial War Museum at Duxford and Bletchley Park National Code Centre. This four day trip is based at the 4* Kettering Park Hotel on a half board basis and includes admissions to all the places of interest as well as a visit to Melton Mowbray on the return journey.

Depart Monday mid morning for RAF Coningsby with a comfort stop en-route. We pass the historical City of Lincoln arriving at the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Centre at approximately 2.00pm. The Hangar tour lasts for one hour and after a look round the Visitors Centre we travel to Kettering Park Hotel.

On Tuesday we visit charming Cambridge for a guided walking tour of the city. The highlights include pretty streets, historic market place and the majestic architecture of the Colleges. Duxford Imperial War Museum is the next visit to one of the finest examples of a wartime airfield with a wide variety of aircraft, seafaring vessels and land machines.

Wednesday is perhaps the highlight visiting Bletchley Park National Code Centre which includes a variety of activities and exhibitions including its Victorian Mansion, home to intelligence staff during the war. See the outstanding Churchill collection and the famous German Enigma Machine. There is more than enough to occupy and enthral visitors for a full day.

Thursday after breakfast its farewell to our hosts, heading north, calling in at Melton Mowbray, famous for its pies and sausages. Why not visit Ye Olde Pork Pie Shop and Dickinsons & Morris Sausage Shop next door? Afterwards we continue our journey back to the North East, arriving at approximately 5pm.



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Residents Association Mourn Loss of Councillor

Dear Sir,
An air of sadness was evident at the last meeting of ACORN when the demise of our dear friend and supporter Councillor Enid Paylor was announced. Many of our members were personal friends of Enid and as a group we will miss her and her input terribly. A ready smile and kindly remark were her stock in trade, where others said she was capable of a common sense approach. Newton Aycliffe has lost a treasure and we will aspire to carry on the task of building our community in her honour. Our collective thoughts are with husband Terry and family. Ken Robson
ACORN
Residents Association

Three "Excellent" Awards for Aycliffe



CAVOS held its 4th annual Christmas Party and awards ceremony at the Shildon Civic Hall last Thursday when three Aycliffe groups figured prominently for special excellence in the work of local voluntary groups. Gillian Fortune, CAVOS and Chief Officer made the presentations to five organisations in total. Ron Mitchie received a Special Award for Excellence on behalf of the Agnew Community Centre in

recognition of their provision of solar panels, construction of a fenced outdoor play area and the setting up of a disability sports club as well as other initiatives during the year. Ian Wiggett received a Special Award for Excellence on behalf of the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society in recognition of the the renewal of their museum accreditation status, the completion of their 1958 ex United coach restoration and the average of 4,500 hours per year put in by the volunteers over the last three years.

The top award for Outstanding Organisation of the Year was given to the Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre for the work by the management committee of the Centre in bringing the centre to its current high quality of operational standards and to their forward plan which should take the Centre into the next five years with confidence. This award was received by Vince Crosby on behalf of the Trustees. Gillian Fortune wound up the award ceremony by telling the audience that changes were to take place with CAVOS and that new arrangements were to be implemented by Durham County Council in the New Year. A very pleasant evening was rounded off by a hot buffet and a disco.

Photo: Vince Crosby Ian Wiggett, Gillian Fortune and Ron Mitchie

Xmas Greeting

I would like to wish all the Residents of the West Ward and throughout Newton Aycliffe, a wonderful Christmas and a Peaceful 2013. Best wishes to you all. Councillor George Gray and Maud

Town Council Leader Disappointed

The Leader of the Town Council has expressed his disappointment over the news that the promised Police Garage and Warehouse is no longer coming to Aycliffe Business Park.

Bob Fleming said he wasn't surprised as nothing was signed and the Police Authority Chairman was leaving office when he gave the promise. Bob said after hearing it was down to the land deal being gazumped, he was rather surprised alternative plots were said to be unavailable at Aycliffe. "There is a ready made garage and workshop, which Holiways have vacated, available to walk in now!" said Bob.

POLICE COMMISSIONER WARNS AGAINST FUTURE GOVERNMENT CUTS

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham, Ron Hogg is one of a number around the country digesting the impact of the government's autumn statement ahead of the funding settlement which is expected mid-December.

Mr Hogg said: "Whilst the Force has been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for "keeping ahead of the curve" in terms of achieving necessary savings, further expected cuts during this period of government imposed austerity threatens the fight against crime at a local and national level. Privatisation and outsourcing is not the answer and I plan to spend a lot of time meeting partners to talk about developing opportunities for collaboration. I believe we can do things better ourselves if we get our processes right and that we should make the best use of the resources we have.

My priority is to keep the communities of County Durham and Darlington safe and I don't believe ongoing funding cuts will help. I believe it is vital commissioners address these issues with the Home Secretary and make our opposition to these unacceptable cuts clear."

Town Council Quiz Arriva on Bus Service



Sammy English with Counc Bill Blenkinsopp

The Town Council invited Durham County Council head of Transport Adrian White and Paul De Santis from Arriva to answer questions on Aycliffe's Bus Service.

After hearing presentations from both representatives Councillors asked searching questions on behalf of residents on the loss of bus routes in the town which are causing great inconvenience. A number of issues were addressed not least the loss of buses going through Aycliffe Village to Durham and beyond. Sammy English was represented by Village Councillor Billy Blenkinsopp who drew attention to a petition Sammy had raised with over 400 signatures, being passed onto our MP, calling for bus cuts to be reconsidered.

Councillors claimed some passengers are having to walk a mile to catch a bus when just a little alteration to bus routes would alleviate this problem.

"Residents are having to ask their employers to change their working hours to fit in with the bus times" said Councillor Hillary.

The Council heard that Arriva was providing 11 new "Platinum Service" buses in the summer which will have leather seats and wifi with 'next stop' announcements. Councillors said these were a year late already and could we rely on Arriva promises as they had broken too many.

Mr Santis said he would take on all the comments and report back to the Council in 6 months after all the changes had settled down.

ALDI £70 PARKING FINE SHOCK

Dear Sir,
Like many Newtonians I was happy when Aldi came to Town, as I previously had to travel to Darlington or Tindale Crescent. I visited the store on the 7th December to do my weekly shop, and incorporated other errands in the Town Centre. I later received a parking charge notice from Parking Eye Car Park Management, stating I was only allowed an hour and I had exceeded my allowed time. (I was there for 1 hour 52 minutes, according to their records).

The parking charge amount due was £70.00, discounted to

£40.00 if I paid within 14 days. I rang Aldi head office and spoke to a pleasant lady, and explained that I had incorporated some errands that day, and informed her how much money I had spent at the store over the last four weeks. I explained that we have free car parking in Newton Aycliffe, so many locals are used to parking in one car park and doing all their shopping. On this occasion she has cancelled the fine, but I would be grateful if you could inform all your readers about this situation.

Melanie Varley
School Aycliffe

SILVERDALE HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE
Junior Neighbourhood Watch

FREE PANTO TICKETS

Free Pantomime at the Gala Theatre Durham on Friday 4th January leaving 12 noon for the afternoon show. Bus fare to pay only at £3 per head.

Ages from 3yrs to 11yrs and must be accompanied by a responsible adult preferably 1 adult to 4 children if possible. Pick up Williamfield 12.00pm and Wilkinsons 12.15pm. To book ring Councillor Dorothy Bowman who is funding this Pantomime visit from her County Council members initiative fund. Tel: 01325 308094. Leave your number if answer machine. Please note activities starting Thursday 11th January 4 until 6pm: "CLEVER CLOGS" CHILDREN ACTIVITY SPECIALISTS. For children 3yrs to 10yrs. All the staff are fully trained play workers and CRB checked. For further details ring Dorothy 308094.

Volunteers wanted for our young people's sessions every Thursday from 6 until 8.00pm at Silverdale House/Western Area Community Centre.

FISH SHOP ANIVERSARY

Congratulations to Mike of Mike's Fish Bar in the town centre who has been trading for 30 years this month. He and his staff want to thank customers for their loyalty and wish them a merry Christmas.

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Don, Colin and Staff wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Newtonians

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Courses at Greenfield Freezing Fog or Jail?

Greenfield are busy getting ready for the New Year and our resolution is to learn something new! We have a range of community learning courses on offer for both adults and young people, including our regular series of courses and some great new opportunities.

As a centre of creativity we hope to encourage and support the local community in learning new skills, developing talent and enjoying themselves in a friendly atmosphere. Our creative courses include Guitars, singing, jewellery making, get making sessions, floral art and painting and

drawing – something to please most people! We also offer courses in Yoga, French and Spanish, as well as a programme of weekly sessions for those wanting to exercise their bodies and minds.

For young people we have guitars, singing, and get making sessions, as well as hosting the county orchestra and community choir run by Durham Music Service.

If you would like to find out more about our community learning programme visit our website www.greenfield-arts.co.uk, call us on 01325 379048 or pop in and see us.



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Who would have thought that jail could ever be something that people would want to enter, even if the alternative is freezing fog? Well, for the friends and families of Greenfield students the notorious 'Penmore Place' certainly was the place to be!

In front of a packed audience on both nights plus a matinee crowd of primary school students, Greenfield students strutted their stuff with their very own jailhouse rock! Original singing, dancing, music and

drama filled the stage for almost two hours, captivating more than just the inmates of the fictitious jail.

A huge group of students and staff from across the year groups and curriculum united to perform a highly entertaining musical, written by the former Leader of Performing Arts, Peter Simpson, first staged in 2000. This was a stunning show, enjoyed by all. A fantastic example of the true magic of the performing arts.

WOODHAM STUDENTS AT NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY



French language students from Woodham Academy spent a fabulous day at Newcastle University learning about the benefits of studying a foreign language. The Year 10 students were inspired by a keynote speech from Alan Bell, chief starter at the London 2012 Olympics, who extolled the value of language skills in his role and his love of different cultures.

A game of "What's my line?" followed where the students had to guess the job of the person they were interviewing. They were thrilled to discover

government intelligence officers, interpreters, actors and European Union Lawyers!

There was also the opportunity to experience a taster session of Chinese, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch or Arabic and the students heard about the opportunities available for studying languages at university. Mr Coley Head of Modern Languages at Woodham said: "Our students have had a fascinating day. They have started to think more about how languages can help them in their future careers,

which is really motivational for their language studies at school"

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Attack on Hedgehogs?

Dear Sir,
I wrote to you a couple of weeks ago when I found a hedgehog impaled on top of a hedge. Looks like the idiot(s) have struck again as on the same route from Woodham Burn to Stag Lane I saw a hedgehog on grass. The poor creature had been flattened, either by stamping on it or using an implement. I was surprised to see a hedgehog at this time of year, especially after the cold spell and thought they would be in hibernation. I wonder if someone is hunting them in the same manner as badgers. It is one less wild creature gone - thanks to man.
Wilf Emmerson
Lowther Drive

Aycliffe Company's Glass Design in Durham Cathedral

County Durham design specialists have helped to replicate into stunning new panes of glass at one of the region's biggest tourist attractions.

Newton Aycliffe-based Echo Graphics joined forces with Creative Glass, of Stockton, to produce the six-foot tall semi-circular windows replicating 11th century manuscripts costing £25,000. They make up part of Durham Cathedral's £1.2m makeover of its Undercroft, to include a new coffee shop and gift store.

The new panes of glass - four sections, each made up of three panes - were made using specialist low-iron, water-clear glass to enable it to transmit LED lights through it and



enhance the artwork, taken from an ancient Bible. The six-month project has been a labour of love for

Echo's creative director Johnny Woods, originally from Durham.

Echo Graphics has recently relocated from Consett to the HUB Workspace on Aycliffe Business Park, and Johnny said: "Being from Durham, we were very proud to work on such a prestigious project. "Durham Cathedral is one of the most important buildings in the North-East, possibly the country, so it was an absolute pleasure and honour to take on."

Tony Campbell, managing director of Creative Glass, said it was important to maintain an authentic feel to the artwork while also giving it a classy, modern look.

"We tried to remain faithful to the original manuscripts. We gave them an aged, distressed look to maintain that old-world, authentic feel," said Tony.

Durham Cathedral's business support manager Vanessa Ward said she's delighted with the outcome. "This is the first time in over a hundred years that the full 13 arches of the Undercroft are on display," she said.

"One of the wonderful things about the glass pains is that they're actually drawings from Manuscripts that belong to the Cathedral.

"We felt this was a wonderful way of highlighting the archways, without cluttering them, so it's not just about coming into a shop, it's about coming into a magnificent architectural space."

More details about Echo Graphics is available at www.echographics.co.uk



Apprenticeship £2,500 Scheme Repeated



Businesses have the chance to take-on apprentices as Durham County Council launches a repeat of last year's highly successful apprenticeship programme.

Some 160 unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds started apprenticeships during the last year, including two who were part of a team creating the distinctive coating for the Olympic and Paralympic torches.

Durham County Council's employability team is working with Area Action Partnerships in Spennymoor, Chester-le-Street and Newton Aycliffe as well as the National Apprenticeships Service, which provides dedicated support for employers through a One Stop Shop. They are providing funds for small to medium sized businesses with less than 250 employees who have not recruited an apprentice in the last year to create additional apprenticeship opportunities for County Durham based 16

to 24-year-olds.

An incentive of £2,500 will be available to encourage small to medium sized businesses to create an apprenticeship opportunity for a minimum of 15 months. Businesses targeted include manufacturing and engineering, energy, scientific and technical, tourism, transport and storage and health and social work, which have all been identified as wealth creating sectors.

Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for economic regeneration said, "This is another opportunity for businesses to give young people their much-needed first step to employment. We are delighted to help out by getting the scheme up and running again. I am sure it will be another big success." If you are interested in accessing the apprenticeship programme funding please contact a member of the employability team on 03000 262009.

Xmas Meal - Thanks to Councillors

On 12th December members of the Wednesday Social Club in Aycliffe Village enjoyed a lovely Christmas meal in The County. This was made possible by the generous donations from Councillors John Moran and Sarah Iveson from their Neighbourhood Fund.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to John and Sarah for their continued support and wish them both a happy Christmas along with best wishes to John in his retirement.

Salon Owner Died in Greece



The former popular owner of Dimitri and Sylvia's Hairdressing Salon in the town centre died in July.

Unfortunately the death was only announced in the Northern Echo and his widow Sylvia now realises a number of Newtonians are still unaware he passed away serenely on his beloved homeland island of Aegina in Greece.

Dimitri was an officer on a Cruise Liner when he met his wife Sylvia. After marriage the couple moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1976 to start the business.

Dimitri always appreciated how much everyone in the town welcomed him and he loved the people of the North East.

"He was a good, honest man with many friends to whom he remained faithful. Dimitri was an adored husband, cherished father and he will remain in our hearts forever" said Sylvia,

Website for Newton Aycliffe Businesses & Organisations

Don't miss this opportunity to promote your business or organisation **FREE**

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Register your Community Organisation **FREE OF CHARGE** (Groups, Sports Teams/Clubs, Churches, Schools, Charities, Care Homes, Specialist Groups, Youth Groups, and Not for Profit groups all welcome)

LOG ON TODAY AND REGISTER YOUR DETAILS

www.newtonaycliffe.com

Marketing Firm Asked Councillor to Pick up Dumped Leaflets

Dear Sir,
I often get leaflets pushed through my door, but last week I found over 100 scattered on the outside passageway next to my house.

I immediately got in touch by e-mail to the company concerned, Mantis Marketing (Aycliffe Today) as it is their responsibility to clear up the mess or be accountable to the Environmental Department at County Hall and face a fine for littering.

I was astounded by the reply I received: "Bill just pick them

up and put them in the bin."

I don't know the person who sent the message, but he assumed he knew me when he impertinently asked me to bin his leaflets.

The first point I made was on litter, but the more important question is for the advertisers on this leaflet who did not get what they paid for.

The leaflets are still there waiting for Mantis Marketing to come and take away, otherwise I will be taking further action. Coun. W. Belnkinsopp Aycliffe Village.

Editor: We received the following reply from Mantis Media director Martin Walker who said: "I had already been made aware by one of Bill's neighbours of some leaflets being dumped and, at the time of Bill's email, had already arranged to have them collected. It's regrettable that a small number of leaflets haven't been delivered, but I'll settle for 100 out of 10,000, and obviously the distributor in question won't be used again."

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Gideon Society Visit Woodham Academy



Woodham Academy RE department were delighted to welcome two sets of visitors last week. Mrs. Aliya Abassi spent a very productive time discussing Muslim beliefs on death and the afterlife with a Year 11 exam class.

The students were fascinated by what she had to say and all of them felt they had expanded their knowledge. Mrs. Abassi was equally impressed with the students, describing their questioning as being "of a very high

standard" and their conduct as "a credit to the school".

We were also very pleased to welcome Doug and Rachel Dickson who participated in a Year 8 lesson as "expert witnesses" who could be questioned by students on the importance to Christians of being part of a church community.

Doug and Rachel are familiar visitors as representatives of the Gideon Society; it was a pleasure to see them answering students' questions about church.

The Great Xmas Stuffing!

The average person in the UK will consume around 6,000 calories (kcal) on Christmas Day alone (versus the guideline daily amount of 2,000 kcal for women and 2,500 kcal for men)! In addition to this, over the festive period, which seems to kick off earlier and earlier, the average person may consume an extra 500 kcal per day, equating to a weight gain of around 5lb by 1st January.

The British Dietetic Association is on hand to highlight some handy tips to ensure the only thing that gets really stuffed this Christmas is the turkey! Prepare, plan and perform! If you are going to eat out, eat smaller meals beforehand and cut out any other treats beforehand. While we all like to enjoy the odd treat now and then, balance this with some healthy options, such as satsumas piled high in a bowl, dried fruit, figs and nuts.

Buffet abundance! Don't hover by the buffet table and if you do indulge, try and visit only once using a smaller dessert sized plate, avoiding the high saturated fat offerings like sausage rolls and quiche, in favour of fruit, skinless chicken and vegetable crudites.

Office offerings! To avoid the office communal chocolate/mince pies etc. Take festive fruit like satsumas into work.

Supermarket splash! When going to the supermarket, make a list and stick to it. Avoid those aisles of temptation. If you want some festive snacks, try plain popcorn, pretzels, and vegetable crudites with a yummy low fat dip.

A bird in the hand...! Turkey is a great source of protein and a low fat meat. Most of the fat that is present in a cooked turkey will be found in the skin. Why not take the skin off before you tuck in?

Proportionate portions! About a third of your dinner plate should be vegetables, such as unbuttered Brussels sprouts, peas and carrots. Cook for the shortest length of time possible in the smallest amount of water necessary to keep all the nutrients in. Use the veg water for

gravy and any leftover veg for a delicious soup. These make a great contribution to your 5-a-day and they also help fill you up to stop the urge to snack between meals.

Healthy helpings! If you want to go that extra step, try dry roasting potatoes on a non-stick baking sheet or use an oil spray instead of smothering them in goose fat. You can also make your gravy using vegetable water instead of meat juices, accompanied by a fruit-based stuffing with bread sauce made with low fat milk.

Tempting tipples! Those who like to indulge in a drink or two, tend to drink more over the Christmas period. Alcohol is very energy dense (7kcal/g versus 4kcal/g for protein or carbs and 9kcal/g for fat). Avoid sweet cocktails and creamy liquors. Try alternating your drink with a glass of water or other calorie free drinks. If you do enjoy a short with a mixer, stock up on low calorie mixers and unsweetened fruit juices and beware the home measures!

Who ate all the pies! The average mince pie contains about 250 kcal and that's before it's covered in cream or brandy butter. Remove the lid to cut kcal. Christmas is also the time of year when most houses have boxes and boxes of chocolates and biscuits to hand. Open one box of chocolates at a time rather than having five on the go and put unopened boxes away.

Christmas should be a time to enjoy festive fun and special food. You shouldn't feel guilty about treats now and then but don't make it an 'eatathon' that lasts from the end of November to the beginning of January. Make sure that they are treats and not the whole sum of your food intake. Stock up on some healthy alternatives too for some balance.

This time of year, it is so easy to unwittingly consume a lot more calories than normal. Make plans to get yourself and the family active - dancing, shopping and post-meal walks all will help to burn off some calories.

Have a Very Happy (and Healthy) Christmas.



A PACT & Neighbourhood Watch Meeting will be held at Aycliffe Village Hall on Sat 5/01/2013 from 11am to 12noon.

PC Alan Thompson & PCSO Richard Scott will take the PACT Meeting.

Community Liaison Officer Neil Langthorne will take the NHW Meeting.

Councillors & Livin Representatives have been invited. Please come along and get updates and have your say on local issues.

Letter from Santa



Dear Newton News
Unfortunately some boys and girls have forgotten to put their addresses and even forgot to put their names on their letters to me. Parents are asked to check to make sure that all letters have a name and return address.

I have these letters which I cannot reply to:

Chloe who wants Princess pink shoes and a Cinderella dress. Lilly-Mai, Jessica and Callum who are making me some special reindeer dust and shortbread.

James who would like a Spiderman, Ellie Katie who would like an Ipad.

Bailey who has been a good boy and would like Skylands

Natasha who wants 4 wheel roller skates, Kenneth who wants a metal detector.

A little boy who would like some X box games

A little girl who would like a fun house, and a little boy who would like a new yellow helicopter

To all those boys and girls I cannot reply to, have a Merry Christmas and I will see you on Christmas Eve.

Love, Santa

Methodist Church Christmas Services

Sunday 23rd December, 6.00pm Carol Service at Neville Parade

Christmas Eve, 3.00pm Carols for all the family Celebration at Burnhill Way Christmas Day @ 10.00am Family Celebration of Christmas at Neville Parade.

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Compost and Enjoy a Green Xmas

People in County Durham are urged to get composting this Christmas. The County Council's strategic waste management team is issuing tips and advice on how to get the most out of composting over the festive season.

Make your compost mixture more a-peel-ing: At Christmas much more food is always eaten and more food waste produced than at any other time of the year. The compost bin will really appreciate the peelings from winter vegetables and festive fruits.

Give your mix a Christmas present: Plain wrapping paper (non-metallic/glossy/waxy) and gift tags can be crunched up and added to the mix. Make sure it is added gradually though and mix with fruit and veg peelings to get the right balance.

Cardboard packaging from Christmas toys and gifts will add fibre and structure to the composting bin, as well as paper napkins, Christmas crackers, inners and party hats! (Be careful not to include anything metallic/glittery or made from plastic film).

The remnants of the New Year's Eve party will also be a welcome addition to the compost bin. Nut shells, wooden cocktail sticks, paper plates and some party food packaging too.

When the festivities are over for another year, if there is any room left in the compost bin, natural home made decorations, holly and the ivy, mistletoe and paper chains can be added.

You can put a compost bin to use almost immediately

by composting the vegetable peelings and bits and pieces from your Christmas celebrations. By next year they will have rotted down to produce a nutritious free supply of compost which your garden will love.

Giving a compost bin not only makes a great Christmas present, but it's a positive way to start the New Year by helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

To order a special discounted compost bin and see the range of other 'green' and energy saving products that could make great gifts, simply go to www.getcomposting.com or call 0844 571 4444.

Compost bins start from as little as £16.00 (plus £5.49 if applicable) and as an added bonus you can also take advantage of the 'buy one get one half price' offer.

For further information on reducing your waste in County Durham visit: www.durham.gov.uk/recycling or Tel: 03000 261 000.

SEASONAL GREETINGS

Councillors Jed and Wendy Hillary wish the residents of Great Aycliffe a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2013.

County Councillor Sarah Iveson wish all residents of Great Aycliffe a Happy, peaceful Christmas with best wishes for the new year.

Councillors Bill and Malcolm Iveson send seasonal greetings to all residents of Great Aycliffe.

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(FOOTPATH NO. 15 GREAT AYCLIFFE PARISH, HUMPHREY CLOSE, WOODHAM BURN, NEWTON AYCLIFFE)
(TEMPORARY PUBLIC FOOTPATH CLOSURE) ORDER 2012

The Council intend in not less than seven days from the date of this notice to make an Order under the provisions of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily close to pedestrian traffic a 10m length of footpath No. 1 Great Aycliffe parish that crosses the Woodham Burn via a footbridge north of the Woodham Burn Primary School, Newton Aycliffe to enable footbridge replacement works to be carried out.

The maximum duration of the temporary footpath closure order is 6 months and is required for around 4 weeks between Monday 7 January 2013 and the end of March. However, for operational reasons, on rare occasions, closures may be necessary on dates and times other than those set out above and where this occurs, closures and/or diversions will be signed accordingly.

An alternative route will be available to pedestrian traffic from the northern side of the closure via adopted footways and footpaths of Malham Crescent leading to Stephenson Way to footpaths south of the burn to the southern side of the closure, and vice versa.

Dated: 20 December 2012



Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL

Town Clerk Explains By-Election Process

A "Casual Vacancy" occurs when a Councillor resigns from the Council (Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972). In this case the "Casual Vacancy" occurred due to the resignation of Councillor P. Ducker in the Neville Ward of Great Aycliffe.

Public Notice of the vacancy must be given immediately by the Council (Section 87 and 232 of the Local Government Act 1972).

If, within 14 days, after Public Notice has been given, at least 10 electors have given written notice to the Principal Council's Proper Officer of a request for an election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election must be held.

The exception being a by-election need not be held if the vacancy occurs within six months of the next ordinary election. This was not the case. Two forms of application for an election were submitted by electors and received by the Electoral Officer. One with 10 electors signatures and one with 12 electors signatures, requesting a by-election. Ten electors being the required number to trigger a by-election. Public Notice was then given which resulted in two

candidates being put forward for election i.e. Mr. John Turnbull (Independent) and Mr. J.P. Hillary (Labour). Following which Mr. J.P. Hillary was duly elected.

If no application had been submitted for a by-election the council could have filled the vacancy by co-option. This was clearly not the case and, therefore, not applicable.

The cost of holding a local Council election is paid for by the local (Town) Council. The estimated cost of holding this by-election is £3,174, however the final cost is to be confirmed by Durham County Council.

Concluding, the option of co-opting a Councillor was not available to the Town Council for this particular vacancy due to the request made by electors (22) of Great Aycliffe for an election and the fact that the vacancy occurred more than six months prior to the next ordinary Council election.

Subsequent vacancies occurring within the sixth month period, prior to the normal elections, will give the Town Council the alternative of either co-option or leaving the vacancy unfilled until the Council elections in May 2013.

A. Bailey, Town Clerk.

Great Year for Dance School



Stepping Out Dance School had amazing support from local businesses and charities and wish to thank you all. Over 50 local girls attend the school and they are a credit to the area.

2012 has been another great year for the girls at Clare Walton's Dance School. Every year the children fundraise to present an amazing show weekend. This year with the help of a GAMP donation, Heron Freezer shop and

the kind generosity of the local people they have again been able to do so. All three performances were huge success and a total sell out, one of which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress who enjoyed the show saying "So much outstanding talent on our doorstep". All this would not be possible without the talented teachers Clare, Danielle and Sophie and the support of local businesses and press.

WOODHAM COACH TO TRAIN GB SQUAD

Woodham Academy and the Woodham Warriors American Football team are delighted at the news that former student and now Warriors coach, Adam Spanswick, has been appointed as Great Britain Lions junior American Football coach.



Adam, who is the lead coach for the Woodham Academy key stage 3 American Football academy on Thursday evenings, previously played for the Warriors under head coach Jon Tait and went on to play for Great Britain himself.

After progressing through the coaching ranks as a coach with the Warriors, Adam has now been appointed to the British American Football Association's national programme to oversee the elite performance programme for under 17s.

Adam cites his many experiences coaching for Woodham as the driving force behind stepping up to national level "Having coached all over the world with the Warriors, it has given me the inspiration and experience to realise my ambitions of coaching for my country". Adam was part of the coaching staff who went to New Orleans with the Woodham Warriors for the NFL World Championships in

2007.

Speaking of Adam's national recognition, assistant head teacher and head coach of the Warriors, Jon Tait, said "I am over the moon for Adam. He fully deserves this recognition and will be a wonderful ambassador for the game in the country. His commitment and passion for coaching is evident as soon as you meet him".

Adam will continue to coach for the Woodham Sports Academy and will bring his new experiences from the Great Britain Lions to the students in his sessions every Thursday. Jon Tait commented "Having a national coach in our programme is amazing for our students. It really does mean our students can learn from the very best!"

Councillor's Suggestions on By Election Illogical

Dear Sir,

CLr Warburton's application of faulty logic in his letter demonstrates why the Independents have never won a By Election in the town since 2007.

Firstly it was his Leader of the Independents who chose to resign knowing he could not represent Neville Ward on the Town Council, all the way from Hartlepool and he did the honourable thing. So I am surprised that CLr Warburton the only Great Aycliffe Independent likely to stand again (now calling himself just Independent) did not support his leader in that decision.

On average the Town Council by natural wastage, resignations and deaths has had one By Election a year since 1979.

Had Labour not contested these seats as CLr Warburton wished, then the Independents would have won. They did not have to, and could have left them uncontested leaving the Council to co opt in all saving election costs for 5 seats. The BNP would have won a seat had Labour not contested Simpature.

If CLr Warburton was so serious to save the electorate money perhaps he will explain why he and all the Independents continued to claim their allowances after I as "just an ordinary member of the public"... publicly questioned and proved at a Council meeting over 3 years

ago that councillors could forgo their annual £1000. He said he didn't know they could, but continued to claim anyway. In total, Councillors will have received over £30,000 per year from 2007-2013 = £190,000, money that could have been used to cut council tax or support services and facilities. yet not one Independent offered to forgo it. As it happens the Independents, from their poor attendances at meetings to having nothing positive to propose, lost every By Election including seats they won in 2007 whilst Labour increased its share of the vote in low turnouts from 46% to 54%.

As my memory serves the opposition also have husbands and wives on the Council. Is Councillor Warburton suggesting they resign? I have attended all meetings of the council and its committees except five, as a member of the public, that is more than any councillor, and they are paid! I have asked more questions as a member of the public than he or any other Independent. I intend to stand for election next year and if elected will not claim my allowance. In times of economic hardship and cuts being imposed by central government, on everyone, it cannot be justified and councillors should shoulder their share of the cuts. I ask Alan Warburton to compare my thirteen years previously on the Council (all

unpaid) with his own, paid, lack of achievement, then consider why the electorate have not voted any independent back. Labour is by no means perfect but when compared to most of the Independents have done very well and the public are not daft.

Arun M Chandran

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FREEZE OUT COLD CALLERS

Durham County Council's fair trading team is encouraging residents to say 'NO!' to cold callers. The council's team are joining forces with the police and local residents, to help deter unwanted cold callers by setting up cold calling awareness zones around the county.

The zones target priority areas where a problem with cold callers has been identified and businesses are expected to respect the resident's wishes and avoid sending their sales teams to those areas.

Joanne Waller, head of environment, health and consumer protection, said: "Working in partnership with the police, we are keen to help residents take control of dealing with unwanted callers at the

door. "The zones that have been set up have been very successful and we have dealt with traders who have been found to be breaking the law."

Cllr Bob Young, Cabinet member for strategic environment, added: "Not all doorstep sellers are bogus, however unlawful traders can be very persuasive and offer what seem to be attractive deals to unsuspecting and often vulnerable people in their homes".

If residents, neighbourhood

watch or other community groups are interested in setting up a cold calling awareness zone in their area, then further information can be found at www.durham.gov.uk (and search 'cold calling') or telephone: 03000 261 016.

If you do receive calls at the door from uninvited traders or sales people, telephone the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline on: 08454 04 05 06 or you can report suspicious callers to Durham Police using the non-emergency number 101.

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The new Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham, Ron Hogg, has launched his first public consultation with residents of County Durham and Darlington, just weeks after beginning his new role. Talking about the consultation, Mr Hogg said: "So that I can deliver a policing service that meets the needs of local communities, I want to know what you think the police and crime community priorities should be within County Durham and Darlington, and what you think the increase (if any) in the police precept (police element of council tax) should be for 2013-14". Giving the public the opportunity to have their say, Ron said: "This is a short survey which I strongly encourage people to complete; it is open to everyone in the Durham Police area and the results of this will help set the strategic priorities for what you want Durham Constabulary to focus on for 2013/14". Residents are asked to describe the three most important issues you believe the police should be tackling to improve your local area. You are then asked to confirm which of the following 3 options you agree to support from the following police precept

(council tax) options:
0 % INCREASE?
2 % INCREASE?
3 % INCREASE?
 Ron continued: "A zero per cent increase in Council Tax will attract a 1% Central Government grant worth £250,000 per year for the next two years only, whereas a 2% increase would add £500,000 to the budget ever year from 2013/14 onwards. Views are also sought as to whether the public would consider paying a 3 per cent increase, which would mean

£750,000 per year from central government from 2013/14". The consultation was launched on the same day as the first two public events, held on Thursday 13th December, in Darlington and Durham town centres. The consultation is open until Friday 4th January and residents are encouraged to vote online at: www.durham-pec.gov.uk, by email to: enquiries@durham-pec.gov.uk or by telephone on: 0191 3835511.

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New Discount Scheme Supports Carers



A new scheme offering unpaid carers discounts and concessions on a wide variety of products and services has been launched recently.

Dozens of retailers and leisure venues are backing the County Durham and Darlington Carer's Card by providing exclusive offers and price reductions.

Developed by Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and County Durham and Darlington NHS, the card aims to recognise the support unpaid carers provide to their neighbours, friends and loved ones and offer a financial helping hand.

The discounts and offers available are based on feedback from carers and include:

- Days out, visitor attractions and sporting venues
- Holistic treatments, hair and beauty
- Health and fitness
- Photography, DIY services and supplies
- Driving schools and vehicle servicing and repairs
- Pharmacies, toiletries and healthcare products
- Building and gardening services and locksmiths
- Solicitors and legal advice

A Carer's Card Directory detailing all participating retailers, businesses and leisure venues is also available for carers who join the scheme.

Sarah Douglas, Durham County Council commissioning policy and planning officer, said: "We are delighted to have played a part in setting up the County Durham and Darlington Carer's Card scheme."

"Looking after a relative or friend can have a big impact on someone's finances so it's great that local businesses can recognise and support carers in this way."

To find out more about the scheme, including details of participating businesses and how to register for a card, contact: Durham County Carer's Support on 0300 005 1213, email admin@dccarers.org

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Christmas Wishes

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JOHNSON Tom, Molly and Dandy of Beechers Grove, Woodham Village wish all of their friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and all good wishes for 2013 xxx

BEST WISHES for Christmas from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett

MIKE'S FISH BAR has been trading for 30 years on the 14th December. We would like to say many thanks to customers past and present for your continuous loyalty. Many thanks and Merry Christmas from Mike and Staff

CLLR BILL BLENKINSOPP would like to wish everyone in Aycliffe Village and the Neville Ward, Newton Aycliffe, also the Volunteers and Patrons of the Cubby, a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

BILL LOWERY would like to wish all his customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

JOAN PETCH would like to wish all friends and relatives best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

EILEEN MEALE Wishes her family, friends and all her neighbours of Watson Road a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year. Also thanks to all who have supported her over the last year.

DORIS CASSIDY and families would like to wish all families and friends a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2013. Love to you all xxx

Accommodation

TO LET

4 Bedroom House Scott Place, N/Aycliffe
3 Bedroom House Aldrid Place, N/Aycliffe
3 Bedroom House Fewston Close, N/Aycliffe

DG, Combi Boiler, Gardens Housing Benefit Welcome

07540 640591

4 BEDROOM Scott Place, Newton Aycliffe. 3 Bedroom, Aldrid Place, Newton Aycliffe. DG, Combi boiler and gardens, housing benefit welcome. Tel: 07540 640591

3 BEDROOM properties to rent in Aycliffe. For details call 07980 596563

3 BEDROOM semi-detached, Heighington to let, £575pcm. Unfurnished, 2 receptions, large kitchen/diner, gardens front and rear, parking and garage, GCH and DG. Tel 07792 092134 or email torent@uwclub.net

2 BEDROOM terraced house to let, double glazed, GCH, enclosed rear garden, £450pcm. Contact 07825 942544 or 07921 129851

3 BEDROOM end terraced house for rent in Newton Aycliffe phone for details 07976 554046

3 BEDROOM house in Scott Place, Newton Aycliffe. £476pcm. Tel 07590 187165

In Memoriam

Barbara Bennett

With love from all your family xxxx



Missing you at Christmas

Every day without you, Since you had to go, is like Summer without sunshine, and Winter without snow. We wish that we could talk to you, there's so much we would say. Life has changed so very much, since you went away. We miss the bond we had with you, and miss your kind support. You are in our minds and in our hearts. And every Christmas thought. We always feel you close to us and though you're far from sight, we'll search for you among the stars that shine on Christmas night.

JOYCE MARSHALL Died 14th December 2002. A dearly loved Wife, Mam and Grandma. Always in our hearts. Love, Wilf, Gary and Sue xxx

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

LENA JACKSON 27-12-1987. Mam. How I've needed you these last two years, but I'll continue to speak to you in my dreams. Loving thoughts of Nana and Auntie June. Miss you all. Love, Debra, Geoff, Joel and Stevie Lena xxx

RICKY WHITTAKER 23rd December 2011. In memory of a dear friend, sadly missed. Val and Oscar

RICHARD WHITTAKER 23rd December 2011. **MARY WHITTAKER** 23rd July 2009. Happy memories of past Christmas', sadly missed. Son Neil

MAM 27-12-1987. You are always in my thoughts and always in my heart. Not just at times like this, but every day we've been apart. Linda, Gary, Amber and Jake xxxx

McKAY James Bernard (Jim). 17/2/29 - 23/12/2006. Today brings tears and memories of sorrow and regret, a day filled with sadness it's not easy to forget. For everyone whose lives you touched has always loved you so. And it was hard to accept that you'd ever have to go, and so this message is for you especially to this world lost, someone wonderful the day you went away. Miss you a lot, Your loving Wife, Heather xxxx

McKAY James Bernard (Jim). As each day dawns and starts anew, and as each day ends we think of you. And in between no matter where, in my heart you are always there. Love you Dad. From Daughter Heather and Grandson Christopher xxx
McKAY James Bernard (Jim). 17/2/29 - 23/12/2006. Dad. Time passes but the ache still lingers inside. You are missed daily and are often in our thoughts. Always in our hearts. Until we meet again, keep watching over us. Alicia xx Special memories of you Grandad, not just today but always. Dean, Wayne and Ricky xxx

Yvonne McKee

(Elliott)



My beautiful, beautiful Mum . . .

I can't express how much I miss you and how different it is without you, especially at this time of year . . . Christmas was always so special to us. Mum, I will miss your rendition of "Angels", while we sipped the bubbles and prepared dinner . . . I will miss your smile and laughter, but most of all . . . your hugs. Mum, I miss you and love you "to the moon and back"
L xxxxxx

JOHN WILSON Died 22-12-2002. A very dearly loved Husband and Father. Remembered every day by Judith and Victoria xxx

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

ALBERT ROBINSON At this time of year we remember most of all the joyous memories we hold dear. Many years have past, yet there is not one day that goes by where you are not in our thoughts. Forever in our hearts. Your loving Wife, Marjorie and family

Chiropody

CHIROPODY

Mr P. Oliver
BSc (Hons) - M.Ch.S

for a Home Visit call

01325 320126

Lost & Found

MISSING - CASH REWARD



Have you seen this dog?

Cream coloured Chihuahua, he is 15 years old, his family are distraught! Any information to 1 Ashtree Close, (Cobblers Hall Estate). Telephone 07999 476451

Christmas Remembrance

MAUREEN MAWSON (Nichol)

14th Aug 1946 - 14th Feb 2009
"My Christmas Wish"

I'll be home for Christmas, wish I could count on you. If we could have snow, and lots of mistletoe. With kisses and our friends, all around our tree. But! Christmas Eve finds me, home all alone like this. With decorations of red, and no Christmas Tree. It won't be the same dear, as you're not here with me. I will be home for Christmas, Oh yes I will be. With you always in my dreams. "I'm still missing you, my love, best wishes. Husband Derrick

DENNIS CHENTRENS 1924-2005. To our special Dad at Christmas. You made the world a better place in your own special way and you are still missed every day. Now Christmas is here again Dad, this is just to say that very special thoughts of you are never far away. From your loving Daughters Margaret, Doreen and Denise xxx

Birthday Remembrance

ALAN CAPELL 31st December. Sound the trumpets, blow up the balloons, there's a party up up in Heaven especially for you. Celebrate your 80th, eat lots of cake and we will drink a toast to you, on this your special day. All our love, Helen, Andy, Holly, Katie, Slinky and Murphy

ALAN CAPELL 31st December. On this your 80th birthday Alan, 60 years since we met. No kisses, no cards, no family celebration. Just to say how much we miss and love you. Passed away 8th June 2012. Wife Vi and all your loving family

ALAN CAPELL - a daily thought, a silent tear, a constant wish that you were here. On your 80th Birthday, your first away from home, a dearly loved Dad, Grandad and Pops. Love always, Janice, Stewart, Louise, Clare and Heath

PAUL RAINE 28th December. I cannot send a birthday card. Your hand I cannot touch. But God will take my greeting to the one I loved so much. Love, Mam xxx

NOEL NEEDHAM Birthday memories are lovingly kept of one we loved and will never forget. Happy birthday, Sheila and Families xxx

Congratulations

Bradley Lewis Jacques

A Teenager At Last!

Have a lovely 13th birthday on 18th December. Love from Gran and Alan

Paul Hunter



Happy 50th Birthday
31st December 2012

Happy 50th Dad, have an amazing birthday. Lots of love from Tom and Max xx
Have a lovely 50th Paul. Love from Mum, Ian, Sharron, Jenny, Lauren, Paulette xxx

VINCE RYAN 19th December. "The Silver Fox!" Happy birthday. Love, SJ, Craig, Madi and Macca xxx

KYLE KITCHING Happy 18th birthday Son. 31st December. Lots of love, Mam, Dad and Harry xxx

BARBARA HODGSON Happy birthday to our wonderful neighbour. Love, Sarah-Jane, Craig, Madison and Mackenzie xxx

GALLAGHER Daniel and Natalie. Happy 21st birthday on 26th December. Love from Dad, Mam and Andrew xxx

DANIEL WEST Congratulations on passing your final exam and becoming a Chartered Accountant. All your hard work and effort has paid off! We are all very proud of you! Good luck for the future. Love, Mum, Dad and all the family xxx
DANIEL Always knew you would make us all proud. Well done!! Lots of love, Auntie Mary

ELLIE GIBSON Happy 11th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Josh, Beth, Mel and Lexi x
Also happy 13th birthday Nial McKerr from us lot too

SUSANNE JOHNSON Happy 40th birthday Mam. All our love, Jordan, Kurtis, Niall and Evan

SUSANNE JOHNSON Happy 40th birthday. Lots of love, Mam, Dad, Lisa, Anthony and all the family

Thank You

WENDY KERR - Susan would like to thank all family and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown during her recent sad bereavement. Also cards and generous donations totalling £180 for St Teresa's Hospice, thanks also go to all Doctors and Nurses, Co-op Funeral Services for their help and understanding
BETTY LODGE I would like to thank my family, friends and neighbours for all the lovely cards, presents and good wishes sent during my stay in hospitals. Thanks also to the staff in the Hospitals and in Ferrymount for their care and also for the lovely flowers given on my return home

Craig Jackman



23rd December

Happy birthday to my gorgeous hubby. hope you have a great birthday. Love you loads, Sarah-Jane xxxxx

Craig Jackman



Happy Birthday Dad

Lots of love from Madison and Mackenzie xxxxxx

Lisa Weston



Happy 40th Birthday

Love you very much, enjoy life. Love from Mam Dad, Chris and Carol xxx

Obituary

Sheila Gibson

(nee Firbank)



Sheila, aged 70, died Sunday 16th December 2012, peacefully at home after a very long illness, bravely fought. Devoted Wife of Fred, Loving Mother to Lee and Daughter in Law Shelley and Grandmother to Adam. Will be forever missed. Many thanks to Doctors and District Nurses. Service and cremation at Wear Valley Crematorium on Thursday 27th December at 11am

	<p>SafeLine Taxis (Aycliffe's "Black Taxi" Company)</p> <p>312 512</p> <p>THE ONLY TAXI NUMBER YOU WILL EVER NEED All Durham County Council Licensed Vehicles</p> <p>OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK Website: www.safelinetaxis.co.uk</p>	<p>WILLIAMS TAXIS Open 24 Hours</p> <p>01325 308899</p>	<p>24 HOUR TAXIS</p> <p>300222</p>	<p>B. & C. YELLOWCAB TAXIS</p> <p>Tel: 307478</p>
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Tesco Road Entrance to be Changed

The Town Council have heard the traffic arrangements at the entrance to Tesco are to be changed. This follows complaints in this newspaper over a long period, and the Town Council taking the issue to the Area Traffic Department of the County Council who have conceded there is an error in the road layout. The link road behind Argos will only be accessed from Greenwell Road, giving those vehicles leaving Tesco priority. The link road will not be allowed to be a short cut from Greenwell Road to Burn Lane. There will be a no waiting, no loading at any time restriction and regulated parking spaces on this road to allow access for service and emergency vehicles. The Town Council accepted the proposed changes with the exception of Councillor Brian Hall who registered his disappointment and said a much better use for the road is being missed.

Early Present for Aycliffe F.C.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 22nd December: South Shields (H) 3pm
Wednesday 26th December: Bishop Auckland (A) 1pm
Saturday 5th January: Consett (A) 3pm

Christmas came early for Newton Aycliffe fans as they won a vital Northern League clash with Penrith 3-1 last weekend. Coming a week after the famous 2-1 success against Darlington, Allan Oliver's side moved six points clear of the relegation zone after coming from behind to beat their fellow strugglers. The Newtonians made the long trip knowing defeat would see the Cumbrian side leapfrog them in the table. It was the home side who made the better start and took the lead after just eight minutes. Martin Coleman turned James Oliver and his cross into the far post was headed past Scott Pocklington by Stephen Rigg. Penrith almost made it two, five minutes later as Coleman broke through but he was denied by a good save from Pocklington at his near post. Aycliffe finally made their mark on the game a minute later as Lambert rattled the crossbar from 25 yards out, but Penrith went straight down the other end and Coleman's effort from the edge of the area flew narrowly wide of Pocklington's

post. A power cut at half-time plunged the crowd into darkness, causing a delay to the start of the second period, but when the lights came back on it was Aycliffe that dazzled. Half-time substitute Fred Woodhouse was instantly involved and, after a one-two with Danny Earl, saw his goal-bound effort cleared off the line by Curtis Ward. But just six minutes into the half, Aycliffe equalised. Pocklington's long ball released Earl, who raced clear and lashed home from 18 yards. Earl grabbed his second of the contest with 19 minutes left on the clock. Danny Lambert raced through and saw his effort blocked by Jonny Jamieson in the Penrith goal, but the ball fell to Earl on the edge of the area and the former Billingham Synthonia lashed home to put Aycliffe ahead. After John Jardine was sent-off for the home side, the Newtonians put the gloss on the victory in the 88th minute as Lambert picked the ball up 25-yards from goal, dropped his shoulder and fired an unstoppable shot into the top corner of the net. Aycliffe fans will now hope to complete a perfect pre-Christmas period with another victory over bottom-club South Shields at Moore Lane Park this Saturday afternoon (December 22nd). The club's popular Christmas raffle will be drawn after the game, with a number of exciting prizes on offer. To purchase your tickets, priced £1, call Barry Waters on 07864 718243, or see a member of the committee during Saturday's game.

Aycliffe Polo Players Best in North East



Sedgefield water polo club played in an invitation under 13 tournament at Maltby pool near Rotherham. They faced Morley from Leeds in the first game and overwhelmed them by 10-1. They next faced the home team Rotherham and ran out comfortable winners 8-4. In their final group game they were much too strong for York winning 11-0 and in the semi final comfortably saw off Sheffield 8-2. They were up against Rotherham again in the final but Sedgefield completely dominated with their strong press defence and strong counter attacks to win 7-1. Sedgefield showed once again they completely dominate North East junior polo with all the big city clubs struggling to close the gap. Connor Keeble 12 was Sedgefield's leading scorer with 11 goals and Ben Stephenson 11 scoring 10 goals and named player of the tournament. Kris Egginton 12, Michael Cousins 12 contributed all over the pool.

Hugh Masterson 12 was excellent in defence. Sedgefield's younger players Michael Hampshire 10, Haydn Craggs 10, Poppy Stephenson 9 and Daniel Millington 9 showed great potential for the future. Young Richie Howe was very commanding in goal. If anyone who likes swimming would like to give this fun and exciting game a try can get more details on 07818 554449

Super Coaches for Durham Tigers

In the new year Durham Tigers Rugby League will be renewing its ties with Super League's Bradford Bulls. On the 22 & 23 of February the Tigers will be hosting a two day coaching course, by Bradford Bull's coaches, at Shildon's Sunnydale Leisure Centre for their players. Tickets will cost £10 a day and offer players the chance to be coached by some of this country's leading coaches. This will be the third time that the Tigers have hosted Bradford Bulls coaches at Sunnydale, Club Secretary Phil Selby said "Following two highly successful previous courses we are honoured that the Bulls have agreed to this because we are determined to give local kids the best training and opportunities possible, so that if they are interested in pursuing Rugby further, then they can. The Bulls are always looking for new players that have the potential to play professionally, and we give them the opportunity to look for talent outside of the Yorkshire area."

The Durham Tigers have 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 and are always keen to recruit new players: On Tuesday evenings they provide training for: their open age (16+) team between 6:30 and 8pm and their Under 14's team between 6 and 7:30pm. Also, on Saturdays, between 10 and 11.30am they provide training for their 2 junior teams: The under 9's and 11's and the under 13's. 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 Bradford Bulls, you can like "We are Durham Tigers" on Facebook. More information: Luke Minall at lukem118@hotmail.com or 0743 2649513. Club secretary, Phil Selby at pjselby@hotmail.co.uk or 0790 970654

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