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Police Prompt Action Saves Family from Fire

TERRIFYING ARSON ATTACK ON XMAS EVE

The Crossen family at Clarence Chare had a lucky escape in the early hours of Christmas Eve when they were wakened by banging and shouting as three P.C.'s from Aycliffe tried to break into their home to get them away from a fire deliberately caused. The arson attack was started in the log and coal shed next to the house



Gerard and Sharon Crossen with neighbour Linda Carlton

and flames were licking up the side of the house towards the roof when it was spotted by police driving past the house.

It was a stroke of luck for the Crossens as the police had taken a wrong turning when they saw the flames and immediately called in the emergency services while they tried to gain entry and get the family away from danger.

Sharon and Gerard Crossen have a family of five boys aged between 10 and 16 years and they are very grateful to P.C.'s John Donoghue, Simon Peele and Lindsey Robson who saved their lives. "Another 10 minutes and we would not have got out of the house" said Sharon.

A neighbour Linda Carlton heard the noise, smelt smoke and helped the police wake the family up and get them to safety.

"We were all fast asleep and totally unaware of what was happening. It is usually so quiet in this area and we are shocked" said Gerard. The Police do not think the family was targeted and are putting it down to stupid late night revellers who thought it was a bit of fun to start a fire. There was evidence around the area that hooligans had been at work tipping bins over etc. The police are investigating this serious crime and anyone with information is urged to call 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Library Time Changes

Library customers are being reminded that new opening times will be introduced across County Durham in the New Year.

The changes, which come into effect on Wednesday, 2 January, will enable Durham County Council to make required savings of £1.457m while ensuring all library buildings remain open.

They follow a public consultation earlier this year, which saw more than 91 per cent of members of the county's Citizen's Panel support proposals to reduce opening hours rather than

close libraries.

A further consultation gave library users the opportunity to help decide on specific opening times for individual libraries.

The mobile library service will start its new route from Monday, 7 January. New phone numbers will also be in operation at each library from Wednesday, 2 January. Information on new opening times, the mobile library route and phone numbers is available at branch libraries, on the mobile library and online at www.durham.gov.uk/libraries

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NEW 2013 Timetable

Available on Facebook or drop in
and see us for a chat and a look
around.

Arriva Bus Fares Up!

We have had the changes, cutbacks, on the buses etc, now we get the bus fare rises! Arriva are having to put up there fares! Some Singles and Returns go up between 10p and 20p. The whole North East area ticket prices are Adult Day Tickets up from £7.00 to £7.30p. Weekly £25.50 up to £26.00. 4-Weekly £97.00 up to £99.00. A Child Day Ticket is still £5.00 and the Family Day Ticket still £13.00. All this for Newton Aycliffe takes place on Sunday 6th January 2013.

ACORN COMMUNITY MEETING 10th JANUARY 2013 AYCLIFFE LEISURE CENTRE 6pm

ACORN are having their monthly meeting next Thursday and would love to hear your views on how we can improve our environment even more than we have. This month we have put on a Pantomime visit with free transport and sweets, and through our friends at Darlington Football Club an invitation for our children and parents / grandparents to attend a supervised visit to the match between Darlington and Thornaby on the 16th January. We are busy making plans for

upcoming events throughout the whole of 2013. With the help and support of The Big Lottery Fund, Livin Community Fund, GAMP, Durham County Council, and many other organisations We are always trying to improve our area so if you have any suggestions please bring them up and we will discuss them. The meeting will be attended by County Councillors, Town Councillors, Officers from livin Housing Ltd and of course there will be a short presentation by our police representatives so please come along and meet us. It is only by your continued support that we are able to keep the focus on the needs of our area and our town. We have many friends willing to help in our endeavours and extend an open invitation to anyone wishing to become involved. Hope to see you on Thursday 10th January

Ken Robson (chair)
On behalf of ACORN Residents Association (getting things done while having some fun).

Jazz Band Charity Night

The Northern Citrines Jazz Band are holding a charity night in February to raise important funds for 2013. The band is made up of children and young adults from the area.

We would like to appeal for raffle prizes from local businesses. Don't miss our fantastic fundraising Soul Night with the superb Susan from 'Boney M' & the amazing Glynn 'Mr Soul' on the 9th February 2013, from 7:30pm - 11:00pm at Redworth Hall Hotel. Tickets: £10 in advance only. The amazing Mr Soul will provide you with songs from the past to keep you dancing all night, from Barry White, Lionel Richie, Luther Vandross, John Holt and many more, whilst Susan will take you back in time with hits such as Daddy Cool, Brown Girl in the Ring and many more.

It's a night not to be missed. Tickets on sale from 01388 778181 <http://www.facebook.com/events/247966701992119/>

Start Your New Year Well!

Fitness Classes start for Legs, Bums and Tums at Heighington Village Hall on Thursday 10th January 6-7pm.

First Class Back ONLY £1 so you can give it a try! Classes normally £3.50 on every Thursday.

Zumba classes at Aycliffe Village Hall restarting after Xmas 8th January 7-8pm. First Class FREE for you to try. Classes normally £4.00 on every Thursday. A new instructor has taken over the class with lots more new moves and lots of fun. For enquires contact Alex on 07774 513389, qualified instructor, suitable for all fitness levels over 16yrs, don't wait any longer to start your new year's resolution!

Xmas Hampers to Help Town's Needy Families



Members of the town's Rotary Club are shown here loading Christmas Hampers for Aycliffe's needy families. Tesco provided the hampers at a very good price and packed them ready for delivery to Social Services who deliver them to those families facing difficulties over Christmas.

The money raised to buy the hampers came from the Rotary Club collection in store and touring the streets with Santa's Sleigh.

Roger Curtis thanked the Manager Martin Butcher and in particular Shirley Cormack Store Community Champion for organising everything in the store. Rotary Club President Roger Curtis said: "Tesco has made the job so much easier for the club and provided goods at a special price for which we are very grateful."

The co-operation we receive from Tesco is invaluable and we are more than grateful for the special relationship we have with the Management and staff. Our biggest thanks goes to all those who contributed to the Rotary appeal. Though times are hard Newtonians demonstrated their usual generosity".

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HOW TO MAKE FUDGE

Shildon and District Flower Club's next meeting will take place on Monday 7th January at Shildon Civic Centre when the sweet makers Loopy Lisa will speak on 'How to Fudge' Free to members - guests £5. Pay on the door

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Saturday 5th January - "Russ Tippins"

"His first set was done with an acoustic guitar, and it has to be said it was just like an intimate unplugged session you see on MTV, the atmosphere was amazing (as was his guitar playing) all the songs he covered were ideally suited for an acoustic set, Russ just oozed confidence. The second set was back to the electric guitar and back to rock, all the classic rock bands were covered: Floyd, Zep, AC/DC, Purple, Stones, Santana. In summary this was the best one man show we had seen in a pub."

DAVYS ROCK PAGE REVIEW

Saturday 12th January - to be confirmed

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Thanks to Central Coaches

Dear Sir,
After the submission of a recent petition regarding the lack of a regular bus service to Greenfields and the surrounding areas I would like to thank everyone who gave their support. I can confirm that I received a detailed letter from Durham County Council regarding the implementation of a new scheduled bus route which is due to start this month and will include stopping at Greenfields and other local stops which have previously not had any regular bus service. I would like to offer a special thank you to Central Coaches who have undertaken this new challenge and who will be implementing this new service and I look forward to using this bus on a regular basis. Their new service will run Monday to Friday and details of the stops and times can be obtained directly from Central Coaches on 01325 300604.
Mrs Ellis

Newton Aycliffe Mother Chosen as One of 100 Faces



BBC Look North advertised for people in the North East to come forward and share memorable experiences of 2012. The music project took 100 people aged from one to 100 to create a unique song, telling their stories of the year.

Composer Benjamin Till created a piece of music for the film and the contributors, who were all born between 1912 and 2012, sang or spoke their lines.

Jemma Chrichard from Newton Aycliffe was the year 1980, chosen to take part as she had recently given birth to a baby boy, William, after 4 years trying to conceive. Filming for her segment took place in BBC Middlesbrough. Along with the filming, Jemma was interviewed live on radio (BBC Tees). "It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I got to meet some lovely people and hear

touching and inspirational stories. I feel very fortunate to have taken part, and look forward to the day William can see it," said Jemma. The 100 Faces film was aired on BBC1 for the first time on December 20th, it is available to watch online on the BBC website and YouTube.

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New Exhibition at Greenfield Gallery

Starting next week we are pleased to host an exhibition of work by Colour your Life participants in The Greenfield Gallery. 'The heART of Friendship' opens Thursday 10th January 2013, and will be on display until Wednesday 30 January 2013.

'The heART of Friendship' is the theme that clients chose; they wanted to highlight that Colour your Life is not just about the enjoyment of creating art, it's about

making new friends and the importance of friendship in achieving quality of life.

Colour your Life is the name of the 'Arts on Prescription' service funded by NHS County Durham and aims to provide free access to arts activities to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. The exhibition will include many of the crafts participants have produced with guidance from professional artists who are working in the marketplace

today.

The Greenfield Gallery is open Monday to Thursday 10am to 9pm, and Friday 10am to 4pm, for more information contact us on 01325 379048, or visit www.greenfield-arts.co.uk. For more information about 'Colour Your Life' please contact the team at the Pioneering Care Centre on 01325 321234 or email: colouryourlife@pcp.uk.net find them on: [facebook.com/ColourYourLife.AoP](https://www.facebook.com/ColourYourLife.AoP)

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A bag of xmas presents was left at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on Sunday 16th December after the Rotary Community Concert. If anybody has lost it and can describe the contents it can be claimed from reception at the Leisure Centre.

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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

ROTARY CLUB XMAS COLLECTION FOR TOWN'S NEEDY FAMILIES



The Rotary Club held their annual collection in Tesco, raising cash to provide Christmas Hampers for the town's needy families. The members wish to acknowledge the kind help and assistance given by the management and staff at Tesco and the fantastic support given by customers.

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Children Celebrate Christmas at St. Clare's

Parish Youth kicked off the Christmas celebrations by planning, preparing, cooking and serving a superb 4 course Christmas dinner for 40 members of the congregation. The girls, all aged 10 years and over, worked hard to decorate the hall and to showcase some of their amazing talents, with a selection of entertainment throughout the meal. With tap dancing, singing, piano recitals, jokes and interesting Christmas facts, they kept everyone amused, and left us all extremely thankful for these young people who enhance the lives of all those who meet them. Well done girls! The group raised £200 for church funds, and will meet next on 27th January 3-5pm.

'Messy Christmas' Church was indeed a bit of glitter heaven! With approximately 50 families enjoying an afternoon filled with glitter gloop, card making, Christmas magnets, reindeer food parcels, glitter play-doh, and writing letters to Santa! The children had an opportunity to sit in the 'Christmas Prayer Chair' and leave a special Christmas thought in Church to share with all who come through the doors this Christmas time. The children took part in re-telling the Christmas story, with a message that the best gift we receive does not come



in fancy wrapping paper or contained in a parcel but is knowing and learning about that tiny baby born for us all. Everyone enjoyed a Christmas Party Tea and look forward to the next messy event which will be in February (details to follow). A HUGE thank you to the marvellous messy team for their hard work and perseverance that is repaid tenfold seeing the delighted children throughout the afternoon. Another thank you to Aycliffe Town Council who had recently donated £200 to this on-going mission work at St. Clare's. "SHINE" Church and Community Children's Choir held their Christmas Nativity Musical 'Hey Ewe' over the Christmas weekend

– both Saturday and Sunday performances sold out and once again, this young vibrant group lived up to its name! This choir has a growing network of support and is extremely thankful for all those parents who helped over the weekend and during the very hectic month of December – the choir has sang for the Archbishop, opened two coffee mornings, sang at three Carol Services and then staged their production. Thanks must go to Santa who managed to call in and see the children after both performances to wish them a Happy Christmas and bring a small treat! A big commitment from parents, children and the choir team! The choir is able to donate £250 to St. Clare's Church as a thank you for all

its support. The choir will now break for a well-deserved rest, until Monday 14th January when practise begins again at St. Clare's, 4.30-5.30pm. Any boys and girls aged 5yrs+ are welcome to come along and join us. Finally, to start the New Year, KIDZFLICKS will be showing Ice Age 4 on Saturday 12th January, 2pm at St. Clare's Church. Everyone is welcome. A massive thank you must go to all who work with the variety of children's and young people groups at St. Clare's – it is a big team effort and if anyone would like to join us you would be made most welcome. For further information about any of the above groups, please contact Mrs. Helen McCormick on Aycliffe, 319002.

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Happy New Year from the Greenfield Arts Centre Team! We have a wonderful new 2013 brochure full of fantastic opportunities. If your New Year's resolution is to try something different this year or you want to develop a skill, we have a range of courses/activities planned that you and others can get involved in. Get creative with artist Lindsay Peters and join the wire jewellery making course, brush up on your French in time for the spring/summer holidays with Maria Acosta, Anna Cole will help you to "get making", strengthen and tone with our yoga classes, get moving and get yourself fit with ballroom dancing, zumba, street fit, bokwa and more! Enrolment starts Monday 7th January 2013, and courses are due to start the week after. For more information, pick up a course guide at the Arts Centre, or contact us on 01325 379048 or info@greenfield-arts.co.uk

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Pupils from Aycliffe Village performed their Nativity 'Hey Ewe' for Parents and Grandparents before they broke up for Christmas. The production was about sheep and how they noticed something funny going on around Bethlehem! The pupils were from Reception Class, Year One and Year Two. They had practised hard and had spent time learning their lines at home. The songs the pupils sang were terrific and the audience all appreciated the hard work of the pupils and staff.

Youthy Mini Bus Rescued

The Youth workers from both Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre and Newton Aycliffe Youth Development Team send a huge thank you to the staff at G H Palins Garage in Newton Aycliffe for coming to the rescue of our mini bus. This mini bus is a vital and much needed resource for the young people of Newton Aycliffe so thank you so much for your great service!!

HMS Gannet, the Royal Navy base at Prestwick in Scotland, is the UK's busiest helicopter search and rescue unit. Lieutenant Johnny Green, was one of the four-man search and rescue aircrew ready to spring into action on Christmas Day. The former student of St John's Primary and Sunnydale Comprehensive School in Shildon and his crew will be airborne within 15 minutes during the day and 45 at night to respond to emergencies. All the aircrew are full-time Navy or Royal Marines personnel who bring years of cool-headed bravery, experience and skill to their search and rescue duties. Johnny joined the Royal Navy in 1998 as a pilot trainee immediately after completing A-Levels at school. During his time in the Senior Service he has served in the Gulf on HMS Boxer, the Mediterranean on HMS Ark Royal, again in the Med and Northern Europe with HMS Cornwall, in the USA on board HMS Invincible and in Afghanistan. "We never know what we're going to encounter when we report for duty," he said. "Even what appears to be the simplest of jobs can turn out to be particularly challenging - and, in this part of the world, that's usually due to weather conditions and some fairly difficult terrain. Covering an area of 98,000 square miles, which stretches from the Lake District in the south to Ben Nevis in the north, Edinburgh and Dundee in the east to Scotland's west coast highlands and island, as well as Northern Ireland, and 200 miles out into the Atlantic Gannet's crew never knows where the next flight will take it.



As well as the duty crews, there will be 14 engineers covering the two shifts, as well as a meteorological forecaster and an operations manager. Johnny will be returning to County Durham after Christmas to have a belated festive celebration on December 29th with his Mum and Dad, John and Susan, who live in Newton Aycliffe.

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Navy Club, Bluebell Way 5pm & 7pm with Diane
 Telephone: 07876 133509

Thursday
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Newlyweds Make Their Home in Aycliffe

Kirsty Hill, from Aycliffe married James Deacon-Brown, from Stanhope on Friday 30th November at the George Hotel in Piercebridge. James works for 2D in Crook as an Advisor and Mentor who originally met Kirsty whilst she was working for 2D as the Marketing Officer. Kirsty now works for the PCP and they both live in Aycliffe. The couple honeymooned in the Dominican Republic and were back in time to celebrate their first Christmas as 'Husband and Wife'. They would both like to thank all of their family and friends for making their special day so memorable.

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 16th January 2013

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".

ALDI PARKING RULES

Dear Sir,
When reading my copy of the Newton News with great interest as I do every week I came across a story that made me so angry I couldn't help but write a response. I am referring to the letter regarding the Aldi fine received by an Aycliffe citizen. In particular how the readers needed to be informed about the situation. As far as I can see we don't need to be informed as there are MANY signs both in the car park and in the store clearly stating that parking is for 1½ hours for Aldi shoppers and it is

monitored. There were also leaflets handed out in the store when it opened and a nice gentleman explaining that this was to be the case and the car park would be monitored to ensure ample parking for shoppers doing food shopping. As the reader is obviously an Aldi regular who shops there every week I am sure she herself has seen these signs? The reader quite clearly states she was there for 1 hour and 52 minutes exceeding (by some margin) the allowed time. As she points out there are

other car parks you can park in should you wish to run errands in the town and these are free too. I don't see how the amount spent in the shop over the previous weeks bears any relevance as to whether the person should or should not pay the fine as the time was exceeded and penalty correctly applied. I wonder how many people think the signs are just for show and it is fine to park there all day? I'm glad to see they are not and hope that Parking Eye Car Park Management continue to monitor the car park and hand out fines to people abusing the facility to keep the car park free for everyone else.
Emma Linskey
Newton Aycliffe

Carol Singing for Care Home Residents



On Wednesday 19th December Year 2 Children from Stephenson Way Community Primary School went to the Lindisfarne Care Home to sing Christmas Carols and spread the Christmas spirit! All staff were very warm and welcoming and thanked us for visiting. The residents thoroughly enjoyed

the service with some joining in with well known carols. The children enjoyed singing in the local community and all left with smiles on their faces. The staff invited us back next year which we will look forward to. A big thank you to volunteers who came along and joined in the festive singing.

DEPUTY MAYOR AT GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

David and Jean Mothersdale received a visit from the Deputy Mayor Barbara Clare and her Husband John to mark their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 22nd December 2012. The couple moved to Newton Aycliffe in 1963 and now live in their fourth home at Ashtree Close after deciding to downsize. David was born in Chilton and Jean comes from Ferryhill where they first met at the Gaety Hall Dance held each Tuesday and Friday. David served an apprenticeship with Darchem as a Metal Polisher, later becoming a Health & Safety, Personnel Officer a job he was offered from the



experience he gained as a Union Representative. He worked for the company all his life until retiring after 47 years service. Jean was trained as a Pharmacy Dispenser, moving to Paton & Baldwins and then Batchelors Off-licence in Newton Aycliffe. She took a Secretarial course and then became a Nursing Sister for

14 years at Aycliffe Hospital before it closed. The couple have three daughters and three grandchildren. They love walking and have travelled the world, but their favourite holiday resort is in Corfu. Family and friends will join in celebrating their 50 years marriage at a special party held in The Talbot, Bishopton.

Genuine Help with Money Problems

Dear Editor,
I just want to encourage anyone who is struggling with money worries and in debt to contact "Life Line Community Action". We both work, but still for a long time struggled with money and mounting debt. Our relationship was failing, due to the pressure which also affected our four children. A good friend told me that Life Line Community Action could help us. I phoned them, and found there was no reason to be nervous and was put at ease straight away. They made an appointment to come and see us and we weren't judged or looked down upon. These friendly, genuine people came in wanting to help and

support us. A heavy weight was lifted as they gave us hope for the future. They saw that we needed some extra help and gave us a box of food and household items which made such a difference. They educated us to manage our money better and now we are in control of our finances. Also new friends have been made as they invited us to social events which were such fun and they truly care about us. We believe in God so thank him for them, for making the difference in our lives by helping us to make the right choices for a better future. Camilla Shergold. To contact Lifeline ring Mobile: 07936 431262.

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- * **ZUMBA FITNESS** - Tuesday's 8pm to 9pm
- * **ZUMBA FITNESS** - Wednesday's 7pm to 8pm (Pioneer Care Centre, Cobblers Hall, DL5 4SF)
- * **ZUMBA FITNESS** - Thursday's 7pm to 8pm

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

Customer Panel Meeting

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on:
TUESDAY 15th JANUARY 2012

The next meeting of the Customer Panel will be held on **TUESDAY, 15th JANUARY 2013** commencing at 6.00 p.m. The Panel meet in the Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe. 'At this meeting the Finance Manager will be giving a financial update'. We are always looking for new members. If you would like to know a little more about us and our work this would be a great meeting to attend. The group are informal and quite often have lively debates about a wide range of Town Council matters.

Why not come along and join us at this meeting – we look forward to seeing and meeting new members.

Further information can be obtained from Christine Walton on 01325 300700
e-mail: Christine.Walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk

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



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Fiona Meets the Wright Man

The only way was Slimming World for reality star Mark Wright when he met Fiona Jones recently at the weight-loss organisation's annual awards ceremony to celebrate its most successful slimmers. Fiona, who manages Slimming World groups in Newton Aycliffe, was thrilled to get the chance to pose for a photo with Mark at the event in Birmingham. Hunky Mark, who shot to fame on The Only Way is Essex before taking to the jungle as a contestant in I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here, now fronts ITV2 show Take Me Out The Gossip. He joined Slimming World's founder Margaret Miles-Bramwell OBE to

host the ceremony, saying: "Presenting the Slimming World Awards was a real honour. I couldn't believe how much weight they'd lost and what a difference it had made to their lives - they were like completely different people. In fact, throughout the day I met so many fantastic people, not only the slimmers collecting awards but also amazing people like Fiona who run and manage the Slimming World groups and help them achieve so much. Fiona says meeting Mark was the perfect ending to a great year for Slimming World. The club now helps more than a million people every year to lose weight and lead healthier, happier lives at one of its 9,500 weekly sessions.

"But there's still a lot of work to be done," adds Fiona. "With one of the highest levels of obesity in Europe right here in the UK, we want to help even more people to slim down and improve their health starting this January. At this time of year lots of people will be making New Year's resolutions and pledging to lose weight, and we'd love anyone who wants to make a change to come along and join us. "Even if they've struggled to stick to resolutions in the past, there's no need to be put off. Slimming World's Food Optimising plan isn't a diet, it's an easy, healthy way of eating that the whole

family can enjoy. By making small easy changes to the way you shop, cook and eat, members see a big difference on the scales. Better yet, because our members can enjoy unlimited amounts of hundreds of everyday foods from fruit and veg to pasta and rice, lean meat to eggs and fat free dairy, they never have to go hungry. When you combine all this with the support members need to overcome the motivational challenges they face, and the encouragement to become more active, that's a powerful weight loss package that's hard to beat - all year round." To get your New Year off to a super slimming start and find your nearest Slimming World group call 0844 897 8000 or visit www.slimmingworld.com



Teenage Handbag Snatchers at Large

Police are appealing for witnesses or information after a woman was robbed in Newton Aycliffe.

On Saturday 22nd December 2012 at about 10.30pm, a 51 year old woman was robbed of her handbag and purse on Dalton Way, Newton Aycliffe.

There were two male suspects on push bikes, both aged 17 or 18. One of them approached the woman and grabbed her handbag, which resulted in her being pulled to the ground and dragged along the pavement for a few metres before she eventually had to let go to prevent further injury. The teenager made off through Aycliffe Town Centre with the handbag. Both of the suspects are described as being white, of slim to medium build. The one who stole the handbag was wearing dark clothing and a balaclava.

Police want to speak to any witnesses or anyone who has any information. They particular want to speak to any taxi drivers or people using the take away shops on Greenwell Road, who might have seen the suspects going to or from the location, which was outside Booze Busters.

They also want to hear from anyone who might have found a white Marks and Spencer leather handbag or brown leather purse in or around the town centre.

Anyone with information should ring 101 and ask for the serious crime team at Newton Aycliffe.

Xmas Garland Making



Greenfield Arts would like to thank Great Aycliffe Town Council Environment Officer Steve Cooper for his expertise, time and materials on Christmas Eve to work with us at Greenfield Community & Arts Centre.

We had many families join us for mince pies, homemade scones and hot drinks as they made some very beautiful Christmas garlands with fresh greenery from the local area. Thank you to those families who joined us and to Steve - we had the best garlands in Newton Aycliffe over the festive period!

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE BEING HOMELESS



At this time of year many of us think about unwrapping presents, festive cheer and the warm spirit in our homes. However, this is not the case for everyone. Every year, hundreds of people find themselves homeless or sleeping rough as they battle the tough society of today. This was brought home to a group of year 8 students at Woodham after they read the book 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells in their English class. The story tells of a teenager who falls out with his family and ends up on the street.

Due to the effect the book had on the group, the students themselves decided that they wanted to experience life as a

homeless person and in turn, raise funds for the 'Crisis' charity. Led by their English teacher Mrs Drew, the group came wrapped in sleeping bags and sat on cardboard boxes for a whole day of lessons outside. During the day, the students were served hot soup from the 'soup kitchen' but had to battle the cold December weather just as it would be if they were homeless.

Owen Newton, 12, commented "The book changed the way we think about homeless people and we wanted to experience some of what they go through". As a result of the students' efforts, Crisis will be able to provide meals and temporary

accommodation over the Christmas period.

GETTING THE JOB DONE!

Dear Sir,
On Saturday 22nd December 2012 at 11am, it was pouring with rain.

How heartening to see your delivery girl, somewhat bedraggled, trudging from door to door, in our street, delivering the Newton News. Who says that our youngsters are not made of the right stuff?

Well done to her!
Derek Atkinson, Denham Pl.

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101

**IN AN EMERGENCY
ALWAYS CALL 999**

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Students Donate Hampers to Elderly



Taking hampers into the local community has become a tradition at Woodham Academy and one that all students look forward to. This year has been no different and the kindness and contributions from students and their families has been amazing. Each tutor group in the school created a huge hamper filled with Christmas gifts of food for some of the elderly residents within our community. Two members of staff and a group of students hand

delivered the hampers this week. The response from recipients was fantastic and showed how much they appreciated students' warm generosity. Assistant Head Teacher, Jon Tait, said "This is what Christmas is all about. Our students really want to help people who are not as fortunate as themselves, and this is a wonderful way of doing that. It is important as a school in the community, we reach out to support families around us at Christmas."

Raising Funds for Children's Cancer Charity

Newtonians Nigel Blackburn and Michael Hay, are arranging a fundraising event in aid of leading children's charity CHILDREN with CANCER UK. The Coast to Coast Bike Ride, taking place on 20-23 June 2013, is a 136 mile bike ride from Whitehaven to South Shields.

Nigel has organised similar events in the past and says "This is my second year of organising this type of bike ride but this year decided to do it for charity. Last year was great but we are hoping for much better weather this time, although I doubt anything will be able to dampen our spirits once we get started. We have a team of 33 in total accompanying us and we can't wait!"

Nigel Blackburn, who works for Carillion Construction Ltd and Michael Hay who assists Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Football Club, chose to raise funds for Children with Cancer UK because having raised large amounts running the Great North Run previously, Nigel decided to try a charity cycling event and raise funds for this worthy cause.

CHILDREN with CANCER UK is the leading national charity dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer. The charity funds life-saving research into the causes, prevention and treatment of childhood cancer and works to protect young lives through essential welfare and campaigning programmes. If you would like to sponsor the team you can do so online by visiting www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/Coast2Coast2013

For more information on the event please call Nigel Blackburn DIRECTLY on 01748 874587 or 07931 564143.

Making Mental Health a Priority



No Wheelchair Hire at the Metro Arena

Disabled people travelling to watch an event at the Metro Radio Arena in Newcastle should be aware there are no wheelchairs for hire and must take their own along with a carer.

Sheila Wheatley from Newton Aycliffe needs a wheelchair and was really looking forward to seeing Andre Rieu and Orchestra. She booked her seat with Premier Events who arranged to take her to the show by car. Sheila arrived early and had to wait an hour until the doors opened only to be told she

could not hire a wheelchair. She attempted to walk and really struggled, so much so that she collapsed and ended up in hospital missing the show altogether.

Sheila discovered that wheelchair users with carers are allowed and carers get in free. Disabled people on scooters also have a special reserved area, but due to health and safety rules in the 10,000 seater arena the management do not hire wheelchairs and carers take full responsibility for the person in their charge.

A number of mental health self-help guides designed by patients are being distributed to GP practices across the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield areas.

The guides cover such issues as stress, anxiety, depression, self-harm, eating disorders and anger management.

They're designed to support people and signpost them to a range of services that can help support them further.

The guides were designed with the help of local patients, as part of a project by the Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). CCGs are being established to take responsibility for planning and purchasing health services for their local communities.

Dr Rob McKinty, a GP at Dr Ferguson & Partners in Newton Aycliffe said "Mental health issues have been identified as a priority for our locality. I hope that these guides will offer people appropriate support and signpost them to a service or health professional that can meet their needs."

Photo Staff at Dr Ferguson & Partners at Bewick Crescent, Surgery with some of the new self-help guides.

Let's Get Cooking!



A group of young, aspiring chefs from Woodham Academy invited guests from the community into school on Tuesday 18th December for a Christmas meal.

The students have been cooking in the kitchen after school every week under the expert guidance of Linda Vipond, school catering manager and this was an opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned this term.

The students prepared and served an amazing three course dinner, followed by coffee and handmade chocolates, all made by the students (with a little extra help from Linda and her team!).

To add to the festivities, there were crackers for everyone, a raffle and Christmas music to get everyone in the festive

mood. The quality and presentation of the meal was outstanding, the service was impeccable and everybody thoroughly enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

WITNESS WANTED

We have taken a report that a Red Fiat 500 was parked in Oakfield, Newton Aycliffe overnight on 26/12/2012 to 27/12/2012 and this has been damaged by someone scratching the bonnet and passenger side of the vehicle and broken one of the wing mirrors off the car.

If there are any witnesses they can contact me on telephone number 101. PC2254 Bill Stephenson

Waste of Public Money

Dear Sir,
The upper part of Burn Lane, from the Cobblers Pub past the Cobblers Hall and Blue Bell Estates, was resurfaced late Summer/early Autumn. Three months later the surface is coming up and you can see the new surface has come off, exposing the old road below.

Not a good use of public money
Mike Baker
Newton News Reader





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Santa Thanks Everyone Who Helped on Xmas Eve



Following his tour of Great Aycliffe on Christmas Eve, SANTA would like to say (on behalf of Great Aycliffe Town Council) a huge thank you to all his volunteer helpers for their time and support; To Newton News for publishing his routes; to Linden Hose, Ross



Aycliffe Training Company Increase Apprenticeship Intake

South West Durham Training continues to see an increased demand from young people looking to embark on their apprenticeship programmes. With exciting regional projects imminent from the likes of Hitachi, it appears many more companies are also considering just how they invest in their workforce.

College Sixth Form Visit INEOS



A group of upper sixth form chemistry students from Carmel College in Darlington visited the INEOS Newton Aycliffe Site on Thursday 13 December 2012. During their visit they learned about PVC and the products made from it and saw first hand the PVC resin manufacturing plant. This was followed by an explanation and demonstration of PVC compounds manufacture in the Process Development Laboratory. An interesting part was the Analytical Laboratory to see how the complex analytical equipment works and is used in practice. Feedback from the students was very positive.

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MAYOR VISITS INEOS AND AYCLIFFE ANGELS MEMORIAL



The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Val Raw and her Acting Mayoress for the day, her Cousin, Mrs. Carol Whitfield, were invited to visit Ineos factory site on Thursday, 20th December. The visit was extremely educational and very interesting. This is a Company who enjoy an excellent relationship with their workforce. During the visit the Mayor and Mayoress placed flowers on the memorial to the 'Aycliffe Angels' which is situated in the grounds of the factory. This was a poignant

moment for the Mayor and Mayoress as Carol's Mother, Peggy Longstaff and their Auntie Vera had worked in the munitions factory during the war. The Mayor thanked Ineos for the upkeep of the memorial and historical buildings which was much appreciated by the Town. The Mayor and Mayoress would like to give special thanks to Barry, Jeremy, Nora and Paul for the welcome they received on this occasion and they would like to wish Ineos every success for the future.

COWBOY GUTTERING REPLACEMENT COMPANY OPERATING IN AYCLIFFE

Worthless 10 Year Guarantee

A guttering Firm J & N Plastics, operating from The Builder's Yard, Bright Street, Darlington does not have a permanent office in this street. Following completion of a job in Woodham he appears to have disappeared, not taking calls or replying to letters of complaint about his unsatisfactory work. A year ago he changed guttering and soffits etc which appeared to be ok until heavy rain, and the poor workmanship became evident. Having a ten year guarantee he was contacted, but failed to remedy the fault until the client decided to go to the Consumer Protection Officer at Durham County Council. It was then discovered that J. Nicholson doesn't have a permanent address and it would be difficult to serve a court summons as he has probably now moved to another area where he just operates from a white van. His strategy is to get a job and then trawl the same area telling neighbours he is working on a house nearby and would they want to take advantage of the good deal he can offer while he is in the area.

He asks to be paid in cash or part cash as he uses local labour to do his work. The man has a slight Irish accent, and is stocky, medium height with a very strong sales approach always wanting to seal a deal with a handshake and flowery promises. The consumer Protection Officer said "I have been informed by my colleagues at Darlington Trading Standards that the address is a travellers site and there are obvious difficulties with maintaining records of occupants and/or traders who use this address on a temporary basis. This may explain why the trader is not responding to your messages especially if he is not currently working in this area." Don't be caught by this man as he will disappear and your guarantee is worth nothing! This is bad news to those people in Newton Aycliffe who have used J & N Plastics, but everyone else have been warned. Anyone with details of this man's whereabouts or home address should contact Newton News on 300212. e-mail syd@newtonnews.co.uk

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

The Council on 28 December 2012 made 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: 4 January 2013



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



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MUSIC EXAM RESULTS

The following pupils of Terence Lawson, School Aycliffe, have been successful in the recent Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Examinations:
PIANO: Charlotte Altringham, Grade 1 with Merit;
Holly Killip: Grade 2;
Sally Cresser: Grade 4
SINGING: Anna King: Grade 1 with Merit;
Anne Gatherar: Grade 5 with Merit.

Bike it to Breakfast



Pupils at Aycliffe Village Primary School have been involved with a Scheme called 'Bike It' which encourages the pupils to use their bicycles or scooters instead of cars to make journeys in the locality. The pupils have enjoyed workshops where they learn to care for their bikes and maintain them properly. The school has hosted 'Bike It Breakfasts' where pupils have been encouraged to cycle to school and have a breakfast in school once they get here. Some of the Pupils in Year 5 are Bike it Officers. These

pupils help organise the activities that all pupils get involved in. In our most recent activity, a competition to 'Bling your Bike', pupils were encouraged to decorate their bikes and scooters. Here we have the winners of the competition, Jamie, Joshua and Leo. These pupils won the local heat and were entered into the County wide competition. Cycle usage has increased as a result of the initiative. *Photo: Leo Norris, with Rio Floreza, the Bike It Officer, went on to win a new bicycle in the County wide competition.*

WHAT'S GOING ON! at the Oak Leaf

MONDAY
 4.00-5.00pm Football Fun for 4-7 year olds
 6.00pm-10.00pm Bridge Club
 7.00pm-10.00pm Adult 5-a-Side League
TUESDAY
 4.15pm-6.15pm Junior Squash & Junior League's
WEDNESDAY
 8.00pm-9.00pm Badminton
 7.00pm-8.00pm Cardio Pilates
THURSDAY
 5.30pm-7.00pm Yoga
 7.00pm-10.00pm Adult 5-a-Side League
FRIDAY
 9.30am-11.00am PASS fun for kids
SUNDAY
 12 noon - 2.00pm Sunday Lunches
 6.00pm-10.00pm Adult 5-a-Side League
 6.00pm-7.00pm Cardio Pilates
 Bookings available 7 days a week for Indoor Bowls, Badminton, Netball, Squash, 5-a-Side, Table Tennis. For further information on any of the above call 01325 300600 or visit our Web Site at great-aycliffe.gov.uk and follow the links

Elderly Lady Trapped in Car Park Lift

AN HOUR IN FREEZING COLD



Marjorie Neslon (73) of Eden Road had a very frightening experience on 23rd December when she had to be rescued by the Fire Brigade from the lift at the multi storey car park. The poor lady was stuck for an hour before someone heard the alarm bell and alerted the emergency services. Meanwhile Marjorie who has Angina was stuck in the freezing cold lift for over an hour, panicking and shouting for help, hurting her hand and wrist, banging on the door. Her husband Ray was unaware of her predicament and was waiting in the car while she shopped. Marjorie did try to contact someone by her mobile phone, but there was no signal. She did once get through to 999 for a short time, but not long enough to say where she was trapped. The Police did trace where she lived and called at her home. Someone eventually noted the lift alarm was ringing and called the Fire Brigade after hearing Marjorie's cry for help. It took the Fire Brigade another ½ hour to free a very distressed lady who was treated by a paramedic before she was allowed to go home. Marjorie has since suffered sleepless nights and

flashbacks. She certainly won't use the lift again and is even frightened to go in the car park. "I am still not over it after 10 days and my nerves are shattered" said Marjorie. Husband Ray said he is very concerned that people should be aware of this lift as it is frequently out of order and it should be closed down completely and given a thorough check before it is used again. The question being asked is what happens when the alarm is activated. Is it relayed to an emergency number or just rings a bell near the lift waiting for someone to notice the lift is stuck with someone inside? The thought of what could happen is dreadful.

PIVOTAL MONTH FOR ROYAL BLUES

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday 5th January Consett (A) 3pm
 Saturday 12th January: Sunderland RCA (A) 3pm
 Saturday 19th January: Celtic Nation (A) 3pm
 Wednesday 23rd January: Durham (H) 7.30pm
 Saturday 26th January: Norton & Stockton (H) 3pm
www.newtonaycliffe.co.uk

Newton Aycliffe begin 2013 with a tough trip to Consett this weekend.

The Newtonians begin the new year five points above the drop zone but all of the teams below have games in hand. It means January is a pivotal month for Allan Oliver's men as every game in the month is against teams in the bottom half of the table, starting with Saturday's trip to Consett. The last visit to Belle Vue Park in September saw the Royal Blues on the end of a 7-2 thrashing in the League Cup. The Steelmen also won 2-0 at Moore Lane Park the following month in league action.

Back then Aycliffe were stranded at the bottom of the league but five wins in the last 10 - including victories over West Auckland and Darlington - have seen the club climb out of the relegation places.

Following the trip to Consett, Oliver's side welcome Sunderland RCA to Moore Lane Park (January 12) before a trip to Carlisle to play

Celtic Nation the following weekend.

The month is ended with two massive home games against fellow strugglers Durham (Wednesday January 23) and Norton & Stockton Ancients (Saturday January 26). The club have been boosted by news that they have a fully-fit squad to begin the year with. Mark Wood is over his broken ankle, John Close, Martin Young and Mark Peck are all raring to go while player/coach Danny Mellanby is ready to make an impact from the bench again.

And with only one scheduled weeknight game in the second half of the campaign, last season's player of the year Darren Craddock should be available for the majority of the fixtures.

By the end of this month it will be clear whether the Newtonians are in for a relegation scrap for the rest of the season or can achieve a safe mid-table position. All home matches at Moore Lane Park are priced £5 adults and £3 concessions.

Wartime Nostalgia Tour

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- Admission to Bletchley Park
- Melton Mowbray Visit
- Guided Walking Tour of Cambridge

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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Rain Stopped Santa Tour

A number of residents have expressed disappointment when the Rtoary Club Santa Sleigh failed to arrive before Christmas. Unfortunately the heavy rain took its toll on the electrical system on the sleigh. In addition Santa and his helpers were also soaked and the tour of streets had to be cancelled.

"We apologise for this and are so sorry to disappoint anyone" said Rotary President Roger Curtis

Super Soup at St. Elizabeths

St Elizabeth's Church at Woodham wish everyone a Happy New Year and a big thank you to everyone who supported our functions during 2012.

In January 2013 we have our first Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th at 10am. January 9th is Soup-a-Lunch 2013 at 12.30pm with a choice of 2 soups, 2 desserts, tea or coffee for £3 per person, all welcome.

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Community Weight Loss Challenge



The Arriba! Community Weight Loss Challenge for September has just come to an end with some great success stories for some of the participants! First prize of £250 was given to local lad Jason Scott who lost an amazing 34lbs in weight, lost 5% body fat and 15 inches. He feels great and looks amazing! Everyone who joins the challenge always feels much better about themselves and more confident. A lot of success can be achieved within 12 weeks!

The Challenge takes the participants through a 12 week course, teaching them about different aspects of nutrition – related to weight loss. The club is held at Agnew Community

Centre on a Thursday evening and provides an informal and friendly setting. The next challenge is due to start on Thursday 10th Jan 2013 at 6.30pm.

As well as a weekly weigh in and a different topic of learning each week, every participant has a one to one appointment so that their specific nutrition and diet problems can be addressed. As well as measuring weight, body fat % and hydration are looked at and monitored over the weeks so that participants get to see their statistics improving which really helps in terms of motivation.

Arriba! Club Leader Jules says “This unique mix of education and motivation, with the added

incentive of winning a cash prize is providing Newton Aycliffe’s slimmer’s with a solution that works. I have been around people who have lost weight, improved their health and made new friends which is lovely to see – including myself. I became part of this because I saw how effective the challenge was”

The 12 week Weight Loss Challenge costs £39 to join. The finishing prizes are based on percentage body weight lost and participants can win up to £300 (depending on number of participants joining the challenge!).

Newton Aycliffe based Arriba! Leader Jules also offers 1:1 weight loss coaching for those that are unable to attend a class. If you would like to book your place - contact Jules now on 07966 968388 as I think Jan challenge will be a busy one !!!

Keep the Party Going with Zumba

Christmas may be over but why not come to a Zumba class and keep the party going? Zumba is a Latin infused dance fitness class and is in your area NOW. The class is a fun way to increase your fitness and when used alongside a balanced diet it will help you achieve a fabulous body shape (we try not to use weight as a guide). If you think you can’t dance then think again. Classes are tailored to every need and every age group (we’ve had people as young as 16 to pensioners), remember it’s not how old you are; It’s how old you feel!).

Shy? Well we have a rule in class: Don’t take it too seriously! Dance like no one’s watching! Because nobody will be! Everyone’s in the same boat. No one’s a professional dancer here! Even your Instructor makes mistakes. We just smile and laugh it off! It’s all part of the fun.

Not into Latin music? No problem. We don’t just use Latin vibes! We’ve got some Maroon 5, some LMFAO and even some Nicki Minaj to move your body too.

Come along to a class this week. MONDAYS 10am Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and SATURDAYS 10am School Aycliffe Community Centre.

For more details text/call Helen on 07506 984556. Look for a Charity class coming soon!

WILDCATS XMAS CRACKER AT AYCLIFFE

The Wildcats came out on top after winning in overtime, 95-92 in what was a Christmas cracker at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre.

It was London Lions who made the early impression by taking a 0-4 lead at the start of the first but it wasn’t long before Durham created some great opportunities and bringing the score line with 1 point of their visitors at 8-9. Some instinctive passing from Bucci handed fellow guard Baldarelli two open baskets to give the Wildcats their first lead of the game. It was a very competitive start by both sides as the first ended as a tied ball game at 18-18.

A shaky open couple of minutes for the Wildcats with the Lions gaining a 13 point lead as Sam Johnson missed few open looks and Durham failing to convert from inside the paint. Wildcats captain Bucci finally ended the drought scoring from behind the arc which then lead the rest of his team to pick up their game towards the final few minutes going on a 7-2 run to bring the score to 27-35.

The remaining two minutes of the second saw both sides exchanging baskets with some explosive play but it was the visitors that took the lead going into the third as the score board showed on the half time buzzer, 37-45.

Durham came out the stronger side after the break with brilliant shooting from Guinane to bring the score line to within 4 points but the run from the Wildcats which never went their way helping the Lions open up a 9 point lead at 53-62. Despite with calls not going their way the Wildcats battled on to bring the game within 5, leading into the final quarter at 59-64.

A very exciting start in the fourth as both sides traded like for like shots with the Lions holding a 9 point lead cancelling out an impressive display by the Wildcats. The Wildcats offense progressively got better as the game went on but they failed to stop a strong Lions side as they held a 10 point lead at 72-82 with 3:30 left on the clock.

The Lions didn’t have an answer to the Wildcats game as they went on a 10-0 run and Brad Guinane nailing a huge three pointer tying the ball game and taking the game into overtime with the score at the end of the fourth standing at 84-84.

The crowd were ecstatic throughout the 5 minutes of overtime as the Wildcats held a lead for the majority of the time with Ralph Bucci and Brad Guinane hitting two from behind the three point line and taking a 2 point lead and forcing a Lions turnover and the Wildcats claimed the victory winning by 3, 95-92.

Dave Elderkin was elated with his team’s performance and spoke about how all the preparation leading up to the game has paid off; “The team showed great character and it was a fantastic team performance.” He said, “I felt this game was a long time coming but I have to give a big shout out to our fitness coach, Cameron Henderson and Michael Davies for all their work they have done in training despite Michael not receiving any minutes but he has played a huge part in training.”

M.V.P – Mike Baldarelli; An outstanding shooting performance which encouraged the rest of his team on their way to victory.

Durham Wildcats – Mike Baldarelli; 25 points, 5 rebounds, Brad Guinane; 20 points, 3 rebounds, Keith Page; 14 points, 5 assists.

London Lions – Michael Martin; 20 points, 4 rebounds, Tayo Ogedengbe 18 points, 2 assists, Adrien Stuart; 18 points, 6 rebounds.

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Youthy Football Xmas Tournament



Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Junior Football Club have held their annual Christmas Football Party for their thriving 4 – 7 year olds at the Oak Leaf Sports Complex on Saturday 29th December.

There were 30 boys and girls aged from 5 – 8 year old, who left their Xmas presents at home to enjoy a morning of football. Everyone agreed that the quality of football was first class and all games were played with tremendous friendly spirit. The whole day showed what hard work has been put in by the children and coaches throughout the year. There is no doubt that the football club’s future is very bright with the boys and girls playing this standard of football at such a young age. If you are interested in developing in football with

an FA Charter Standard Community Club and are a young boy 5-8 years old or a girl 8-11 years old please contact Berni 07939045242 or visit our web site www.naycafc.co.uk

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PLANS TO TACKLE DOMESTIC ABUSE IN CO. DURHAM

A plan for tackling domestic abuse in County Durham is launched this week. The Safe Durham Partnership's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2012-15 outlines how member organisations will work together to reduce domestic abuse and support those affected by it. Based around three objectives – prevention, protection and provision – the strategy will guide the work of the County Council, Durham Constabulary, NHS County Durham and other organisations over the next three years. Cllr Lucy Hovvels, the Council's Cabinet member for safer and healthier communities and chair of the Safe Durham Partnership's Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group, said: "Our vision is for all agencies to work together to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham. "The strategy draws on existing services, support and good practice within County Durham and considers how they can be developed for the future." Chief Constable Mike Barton of Durham Constabulary, said: "Our Domestic Abuse Strategy sends out a positive message that Durham Constabulary will not tolerate domestic abuse in County Durham and will work closely with partners to tackle all aspects of this serious issue."

The strategy, which was launched to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, outlines the partnership's previous achievements. These include a 20 per cent increase in referrals to domestic abuse services since 2009/10 and 80 per cent of defendants arrested and charged with a domestic abuse-related charge in 2011/12 being successfully prosecuted. The Domestic Abuse Strategy is available on the council's website at www.durham.gov.uk/domesticabuse.

Meningitis Charity Seek Runners

Dear Editor, We are asking your readers to run the Virgin London Marathon 2013 for Meningitis UK to help us stamp out the deadly disease. We were only allocated a few guaranteed places (Golden Bond) and humbly ask kind-hearted people with or seeking an independent place to take on the 26-mile challenge on April 21st for us. Everyone who runs for us will be part of the Meningitis Musketeers team, with the motto 'All 4 One and One 4 All' – to highlight the devastating fact that meningitis can kill in four hours and the importance of our "Search 4 A Vaccine Campaign". Full support will be given and

everyone who participates will receive a free running vest or T-shirt, and a handy information pack including hints on how to prepare. Our sole focus is to fund the development of vaccines and other methods of preventing this devastating disease. In the absence of a vaccine, we also distribute a range of

material to raise awareness of the common symptoms and the need to act quickly, which can mean the difference between life and death. If you would like to take part and help us achieve our vision, please contact Emma King on 0117 303 33 45. We look forward to hearing from you! Emma King

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County Plans to Cut Energy Consumption Saving £1m a Year

Plans to replace and dim street lighting in County Durham would mean a significant cut in carbon emissions. Durham County Council is also proposing to replace outdated pedestrian and traffic signals and remove lighting where it is not deemed necessary as part of a project to reduce energy consumption. Street lights, illuminated signs, bollards, traffic signals and pedestrian crossings currently account for 18% of the council's carbon emissions. The proposed changes would mean a 73% reduction in emissions from the equipment affected and a 7% reduction in overall council emissions – a significant boost to the

authority's efforts for an overall reduction of 40% by 2015. They would also result in net savings of £24 million over the next 25 years, rising to £55 million when inflation is taken into account. Cllr Bob Young, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for strategic environment, said: "These proposed measures will not only mean a major reduction in our carbon emissions, they will also save us money in the long-term and reduce the impact of increases in energy costs. "Dimming street lights should have little impact on motorists and pedestrians as the difference will hardly be visible." The council is proposing to

dim lights by 25 per cent between 10pm and midnight and by 50 per cent between midnight and 5am. This amount of dimming is not generally perceptible to the human eye and dimming of 25 per cent has been in operation on the A167 for a number of years. The plans also include updating more than 41,000 street lights, 2,991 traffic signals and dozens of other items to cut energy consumption, replacing illuminated signs with non-lit ones and removing some equipment which is deemed unnecessary. Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet will discuss the proposals when they meet next week at County Hall.

New Year Wishes

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Godfrey and Shirley Bennett to friends old and new

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COMMISSIONER LOOKS FOR NEW CHIEF CONSTABLE

The process to appoint a permanent Chief Constable for Durham has been launched. The new Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham, Ron Hogg, is one of a number around the country currently looking to recruit to their most senior post. As a police force area Durham offers a unique blend of policing challenges with a diverse range of communities, and a population of approximately 618,800. Geographically, the area is predominantly rural with half of residents living in settlements of less than 10,000 people. Darlington, in the south of the Force area, is the largest town. Talking about the Chief Constable vacancy, Mr Hogg said: "As the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham. I am seeking to appoint a highly motivated individual to help me deliver my vision of achieving excellence in local policing and the highest

levels of public confidence. I aim to do this by working alongside communities and partners to address what matters locally. The person appointed will have the professional policing skills and experience necessary to lead Durham Constabulary in maintaining and approving on its high performance".

The appointment is expected to be made on the 28th January 2013 and will be subject to a confirmation hearing by the Police and Crime Panel.

Free 2013 Wall Planner

If you did not receive your **FREE 2013 Year Planner** with your Newton News or want an extra copy please call in at Newton Press offices. We have a number of spare copies available for collection at St. Cuthberts Way, Aycliffe Business Park. The Newton Aycliffe Library in the Town Centre also have a number of copies available.

In Memoriam

GORDON O'BRIEN 4th January 2008. Five years have passed, still sadly missed. R.I.P. Davey and Phil
JOHN ALAN PARKER 3rd January 2012. Memories of a special Dad and Grandad. Love, Kay, Mike, Michael, Sean and Zoe xx
MARGARET BUSSEY 2nd January 2012. In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day. Loving Husband Charlie, Sons Michael, Peter and David; Daughter-in-Laws Louise, Alison and Jill; Grandchildren Emma, Anna, Jonathan, Joseph and Matthew
BERNIE FAHEY Gone, yet not forgotten. Although we are apart your spirit lives within me, forever in my heart. Loved and remembered every day, this pain of missing you will never go away. Love, Steph, Lee and Nikki
PAUL RAINE 28th December. A special Brother always in my thoughts and never forgotten. Jeff
PAUL RAINE 28th December. A special Brother and Uncle, always in our thoughts. Love, Jeff, Tracey, Josh, Chloe, Kay, Nick and Paul xx

Obituary

Harry Craggs
(Craggie)

30th December, peacefully after illness, Harry (Craggie), aged 69 years of Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Husband of Brenda; dear Dad to Gina, Julia and Michael; also a much loved and loving Grandad. Will friends please meet for Service in the Wear Valley Crematorium at 11.45am on Tuesday 8th January

MILLER. Address Irene aged 74 years died peacefully at home on 28th December surrounded by her loving family. Beloved Wife of Eddy; devoted Mam of Mandy, Eddy and Andrew; Much loved Mother in Law of Gary, John and June also an adored Nanna of Darren, Samantha, James, Danny and Chloe. Funeral Thursday 10th January. Would friends please meet 11am for a Service in St Clares Church prior to private burial. All floral tributes may be sent to Co-operative Funeralcare, Macmillan Road, Newton Aycliffe.
PETCH (nee Woodland). Joan Alvina, aged 85 years, peacefully on December 21st, of Moule Close, Newton Aycliffe. Beloved Wife of the late Jonathan James; dearly loved Mam of Tony and Stephen; dear Mother-in-Law of Mandy and Rachel and a loving Nana and Great-Nana and a dear Sister of Emily and the late Edie. Funeral Friday 4th January. Would friends please meet for Service in Neville Parade Methodist Church at 11.00am followed by cremation at Durham Crematorium.
DENISE HALLIMOND 24th December 2012, aged 54. Loving Daughter of the late Jean and Max; Brother of Donald, Hilary, Jane and late Michael. Funeral on 8th January, 12.30pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Newton Aycliffe. Flowers to Whitehouse Funeral Service, Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6EN

Congratulations

Lindsey McCullam
(nee Abson)



Well Done on getting your Masters Degree. Love from Mum and all the family

Hannah Pearson



Happy 18th Birthday
For a beautiful daughter on 29th December 2012. All our love, Mam, Dad and Joshua xxx

Rebecca Fee
(Becky Boo)



Happy 18th Birthday to a very special young lady. Love you so much, Auntie Lyn and Uncle Stan xxx
Happy 18th birthday Becky Boo. Lots of love from Leanne, Layton and Serenna. Love you loads. Boo Boo xxxx

Belle Winter Proctor



31st December
Happy 1st Birthday
All our love, Nanna and Grandad Gartland, John, Lyn, Ian and Lauren xxx

Arnold & Jean Stephenson



Congratulations
Mam and Dad on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Love from Melanie, John, Ryan and Melissa xxxx

Rebecca Fee



Happy 18th Birthday
To our gorgeous Daughter, have a fantastic 18th birthday. Lots of love from Mam and Dad

Sam Hurst



21 on 2nd January
Happy birthday "Sammy Sunshine". It's been 21 happy years and we're so proud of you. Here's to a wonderful future. Love always, Mum, Dad, Joe and Louis xxxx
Happy 21st Birthday
Sam. Wishing you all the best for the future. Love, Gran xxxx

Matthew Dawson



Happy 18th Birthday
Love you loads
Mam, Alex and Lewis
xxxxxxxxxx

Thank You

THOMPSON The family of the late Alan wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. Also for the cards, messages of condolence, floral tributes received and donations to the British Lung Foundation, total of £280. Thanks to doctors and staff of Pease Way Medical Centre and District Nurses. Thanks to Rev Bill Simms for a comforting Service and David Scott and the staff of Co-operative Funeralcare in Newton Aycliffe for funeral arrangements.

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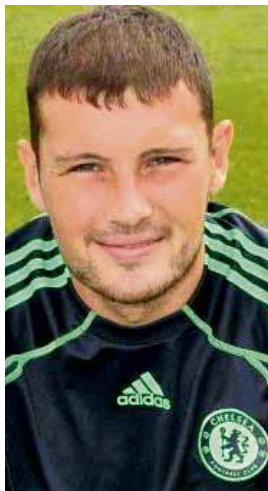
TOWN FOOTBALL PRO DONATES KIT



Ross Turnbull, a former player with Newton Aycliffe Youth Football Club, and now at premier league side Chelsea, nominated the football club to receive a strip through the Professional Footballers Kit Scheme. The scheme was launched at the end of 2011 when all Professional footballers contributed to a fund to provide strips for grassroots football. Each footballer was invited to nominate their chosen junior club to benefit from the scheme. The under 11 girls team was

chosen and has Ross' name proudly displayed on the sleeve. The girls play in the Russel Foster Youth League and made a winning start wearing their new strip. The girls are very grateful for this donation and sent a big thank you to Ross. The girls section of the football club is growing every season with 3 age groups competing every Saturday. We are now opening a girls development section and are offering coaching to Year 4 & 5 girls to prepare for a

new team to start competitive football in March 2013 at the under 10 age group. If you need more information about our ambitions for girls football contact Berni 07939 045242 or visit www.naycafc.co.uk



Ross Turnbull

Help for Under 9's Team

Newton Aycliffe Youth Centre Under 9 Falcons, would like to thank Jason Steele for donating his boots to be auctioned off. The boots sold for £62. and the club would also like to thank Jason for donating a signed Middlesbrough ball. Thanks to Sharon's Party Cakes of Shildon for donating prizes for the Christmas raffle which raised £138.

Thirty People in New Triathlon Club

Bored with the same old fitness routine or just fancy trying something new and exciting? How about trying Triathlon? The swim, bike, run event that stole the

nations hearts during London 2012. Aycliffe Tri Club are a new club based in Newton Aycliffe, forming only in March 2012 and already

sporting over 30 members. The club attracts athletes of all abilities from the complete novice to the seasoned pro. The club hold swim sessions on a Wednesday evening 7pm-8pm at Woodham Academy pool and meet for regular bike and run sessions through out the year. Aycliffe Tri Club has a number of coaches who are always on hand to help you progress to your first triathlon all the way to Ironman. During January you can come along meet everyone and take part in your first swim session free of charge.

There will also be a club open night on Monday 4th February 7pm at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre for new members to come along find out more information and if you join the club that night you will receive 2 months membership free of charge. If you would like more information before then you can find us on the club web site www.aycliffetriclub.org by email aycliffetriclub@gmail.com or you can call Club Coach Andrew Sedgewick on 07887 817960

Wildcats Ready for New Year

The Durham Wildcats, based at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre, start the new year with a home game against Cheshire Phoenix. Cheshire travelled to Newton Aycliffe twice last season and the Wildcats got the better of them on both occasions. Cheshire, who will travel with former Wildcat Chris Pearce in their squad, are hovering around the play-off places and it is a must win game for the Wildcats who still harbour their own play-off ambitions.

The Wildcat squad have been depleted due to illness in recent weeks and it may still be too early for a Paul Elderkin return but Head Coach, Dave Elderkin, is clearly looking forward to having something close to a full strength squad on show: "I'm really looking forward to this phase of the season. The squad has now been together for a few months and the chemistry is now there. We were undermined by our inability to get everyone on the court fit and healthy in the latter part of 2012 but that is hopefully behind us now. A win against Cheshire would be a great way to start the New Year and kick start our play-off charge."

Whilst senior players have been out of the equation it has provided an opportunity for

the clubs youngsters to shine. Tom Noble, who studied at Woodham School until 2010, has been one of the youngsters to get his chance but has clearly enjoyed every minute of the experience: "I was shocked when I was asked to join the first team but am really enjoying things. The squad have been very welcoming and I'm looking forward to getting some minutes playing alongside them."

Your next opportunity to see the Wildcats is January 6th at home to Cheshire Phoenix. Tip-off is at 16:00 with the doors opening at 15:00. For more information visit: www.godurhamwildcats.com

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