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New Bus Service Flops

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Two weeks into providing a new circular bus service for the town, Alex Voy of Central Coaches thinks he has made a big mistake. "My bus is going round the town empty and I am very disappointed as following all the fuss about Arriva withdrawing services, I thought I would at least cover my costs." Alex is now losing money and has to give 8 weeks notice if he is forced to stop the service. and by the time the period of notice is finished he could be in serious financial trouble.

AYCLIFFE GIRL SELECTED FOR GB WATERPOLO TEAM

Rhiannon Foulds, a Year 11 student at Woodham Academy, has been selected for the junior Great Britain Waterpolo squad. Rhiannon has swum from an early age and started playing for Sedgefield Waterpolo Club trained by George Carpenter. This still remains her home team and she currently trains with them three times a week, whilst balancing her academic studies alongside it.



However, even though Rhiannon is only 16 years of age, she has also been playing National League waterpolo for Sheffield ladies team, though this year she is training with Leeds. It is from playing in a National League tournament that Rhiannon was first spotted by a GB scout and invited to join their development squad, which she has been a part of for the last two years. Through the development squad she has gone on to represent Wales in the Celtic Tri-Nations, where she was awarded prizes for most valuable player and top scorer of the tournament. Hard work and dedication has paid off and Rhiannon recently found out that she has been selected for the junior U17 squad for the Holland tournament in February. Not content to sit back and relax, her aim now is to continue to strive for selection for the European Championships team in Hungary later this year. This means that she must continue to train hard and show improvement in speed trials, ball control, leg strength, shooting height and dry land training.

Mrs Hall, Head of PE at Woodham Academy, said: "We would like to congratulate Rhiannon on this fantastic achievement. Her obvious talent and dedication to the sport has gained her the success that she rightly deserves and we would like to wish her all the best in her future Waterpolo achievements".

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History Society Meeting

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Council Deals With Bad Weather

Durham County Council report that vehicles remain on duty to salt and treat priority routes as necessary. Motorists should only make essential journeys and travel with the current conditions in mind.

Salt Bins: Gangs have been replenishing salt bins countywide and salt bins / heaps will continue to be replenished to deal with requests.

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Guitar Lessons at Greenfield Bingo at the Scout Centre



John Melvin's Wednesday night "informal jamming session" group, who just meet at Greenfield Arts Centre for fun. They all originally started at the beginners class, and moved over to allow new people to start.

The new beginners class under the tuition of John Melvin started Thursday 17th January, at 7pm and is a 10 week course for adults who are just starting the guitar. There is also an 8-16yrs junior class which started the same night at 5pm. More details on these courses are available at the Arts Centre.

If you enjoy playing bingo why not come along on a Saturday night and join us? We will be holding bingo sessions every fortnight with the next one on Saturday 19th January then two weeks later on 2nd February.

The first house will start with eyes down at 8pm, so come along bring your friends and enjoy the evening.

Jessie J
Tribute Act

SATURDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2013
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Tickets £6.00 or £7.00 on the Door
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Genealogy Course at Durham Record Office

Ever fancied finding out more about your family background?

If so, a Family History Course running at Durham County Record Office is highlighting the tricks of searching for long lost relatives and ancestors.

The course, which begins on Thursday, 31 January and runs for three weeks, will help those interested to trace a family tree, specifically using resources and documents held at the record office.

There will be three sessions lasting two hours between 10.00am and noon with a charge of £20 a person.

An archivist will be leading the sessions and anyone interested is asked to book a place in advance as courses are popular.

Dawn Layland, education and outreach archivist, with Durham County Council, said: "This is a really good chance, not only to get started

on your family tree, but to learn how to use the sources we have here. You will find out things like how to locate the microfilm you need as well as learning how to use the information you find from it."

There are also courses planned for the spring. These will be identical courses and will run for three weeks:

Tuesday, 16 April 6.00pm until 8.00pm and Thursday, 10.00am until noon.

Durham County Record Office is located at County Hall, Durham. To book a place contact the record office on: 03000 267626. Booking a place in advance is essential.

Co-op Helps Neville Community Centre



The Co-op has donated funds to refurbish the ladies toilets at Neville Parade Community Centre. Chairman Peter Beaty is seen here receiving the cheque from Alan McCourt from the CWS. "We are very grateful for this generous support which further enhances the excellent facilities offered at the Centre" said Peter.

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Saturday 19th January - "Insanity"

"Two great sets with something a bit different - early Sabs, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Foo Fighters and a brilliant version of Queens Of The Stone Age 'No One Knows' were amongst the stuff Insanity serve up. Not all my cup of char, but thoroughly enjoyable. Band were nice and tight with Graeme his usual rocking self at the back, ably assisted in the rhythm section by Hirdy playing great bass and jumping around like only he does. Brian on vocals has a perfect voice for the material and headbangs and poses like a proper frontman. I was most impressed with John 'I only play rhythm really'... yeah, right! Trigg on guitar, great clean, but dirty tone playing in a variety of tunings and some real tasty phrasing and playing. Definitely a less is more style, but some lush soloing that was even more impressive considering the lack of saturation, each note ringing out nicely. Excellent stuff!"
GIG PIT REVIEW - www.insanity-rock.com

Saturday 26th January - "Skinflint"

Twice stars of the main stage at 'STORMIN'

Previous review from the Turbinia: "Skinflint's first blast in the Tub last night, and what a first blast!!! love Skinflint, cos they've got the only two guys I know who get their hair out more than me!! Absolutely ace! Everyone has said how good the lads were, and with an alternative venue just over the road havin a band on again, some of the folk who came over from there said they were well pleased they had done so!!

The lads had the sound bang on for us, they sounded excellent! (I loved "the soundcheck song"). Opening tune was 'Paranoid', swiftly followed by 'For Whom The Bell Tolls'. Thin Lizzy's 'Cold Sweat' was top notch as was 'Cat Scratch Fever', I heard that one at Crook and it's fast becoming one of my faves! Chris Isaac's 'Wicked Game' and Ozzy's 'Bark At The Moon' were followed by 'Rosalie', (which took away one of our lad's shout for his encore straight away!!) AC/DC's 'Whole Lotta Rosie' removed Keith's second encore shout so he was stuck for what to shout for when the time came!! Bit of Foo Fighters and Sabbath, The Cult's 'L'il Devil' had me and some of the lasses on the floor with the hair out, (nowt new there) and Status Quo's 'Sweet Caroline' rocked!! 'Whisky In The Jar' totally ruined Keith's chances of shouting for anything at all for an encore, 'Highway Star' and 'Smoke On The Water', and the lads rounded off with my all time fave 'Rebel Yell', which guaranteed me whiplash this morning!! Saw these guys at Stormin' last year, was looking forward to them coming to the Tub and they did themselves proud. I hope they enjoyed the gig as much as the punters did, and look forward to them coming back for another round!!

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COUNTY'S PLAN TO REVITALISE MARKETS EXCLUDES AYCLIFFE

Durham County Council met this week to agree plans to revitalise markets in the County. This follows a study last year which recognised markets need help to thrive. The Council propose to support and encourage markets which sounds like good news, but it does not apply to Newton Aycliffe as our market is run by the traders themselves under the auspices of our Town Council.

Newton News wrote to Neil Foster, Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Durham County Council suggesting Newton Aycliffe should have a fair share of any money being spent to help markets in the county.

County Council Response:
Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Durham County Council said: "We are looking at ways to develop and revitalise markets in County Durham in order to help them overcome the current economic pressures they face. "We are keen to work with and support all markets in the county as we recognise that they all play a vital role in our local town centre economies. "The principles in our strategy can clearly be applied to all markets and we hope to have the opportunity to work with other market operators to help bring about wider improvements."

AYCLIFFE HEAD TEACHER SAYS CREATIVITY LEADS TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



David Priestley, Greenfield Community College, Headteacher was invited to address an international delegation of teachers and educationalists at the headquarters of Creativity, Culture and Education. Mr Priestley was able to show how the promotion of creativity can contribute to both personal development and high academic excellence. Greenfield students are more than

10% above the national average for achieving the government's gold standard EBACC qualification. This is achieved whilst maintaining a commitment to the arts and creativity and an emphasis on personalised learning. Mr Priestley pictured with teachers from South Korea said "our approach is designed to challenge all our students to release their potential. Greenfield has a long record of promoting the arts as a National School of Creativity and this has enabled us to achieve improving examination results that set new records each year".

LOST XMAS PRESENT

Dear Sir,
 Just letting you know that the Christmas present left at the Community Concert was delivered to the little girl it was meant for. Thanks you for putting it in your newspaper. They said had it not been in Newton News they would never have got it back! I've had it on facebook for ages so it just goes to show everyone reads the Newton News.
 Susan Trotter

Dog Muck!

Dear Sir,
 Again someone has allowed their dog to foul outside the bungalows in Flynn Court. Does the dog owner not realise his idle and criminal behaviour can have dire health consequences on elderly people in this area? We should not have to clean up this mess and it can get trodden around. Please have a little thought and stop being so selfish. If I actually catch the person I will take a photo and show it to the authorities.
 Mrs M. Wright.

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SATURDAYS – Your PASS to fun on Saturday mornings for those aged 8-15 years. Come along from 9.30am to 11.00am and try lots of different sports with our in-house coaches, and it's only £2 per session. Further details contact Oak Leaf Sports Complex on 01325 300600.

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*Aycliffe Village Ofsted Outstanding

Confidence Course for the Over 50's

Give yourself a confidence boost for 2013 - Become a 'Confident Consumer'! If you are aged 50+ and live in County Durham, Age UK is offering free training. Our interactive and informal 'Confident Consumer' course can help you increase your confidence to speak up and share your views.

Over a couple of days or 4 half day sessions you will:

- Learn what age discrimination is and how to avoid it;
- Get a snapshot of different behaviours and develop your assertiveness skills;
- Learn a range of positive communication skills and when to use them;
- Refresh your negotiating skills and realise how important these can be

when asking for what you need;

- Gain more confidence about sharing your views and experiences with organisations and service providers.

The course is very flexible and can be delivered in a range of ways to meet your needs. If you are part of a community group you might like to have the course provided for your members. Just give us a call and we will try our best to accommodate you. Our next 2 day course is in Newton Aycliffe at the Youth Centre on Tues 19 and Wed 20 February 2013 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm with lunch provided. If you would like to take part please contact Danielle or Clare on 0191 383 9750.

From Little Acorns . . .

SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

ACORN was conceived from a successful Neighbourhood Watch group operating in the area around Newton Aycliffe town centre and has become a representative group with no political bias interested only in improving the lives and environment of residents; whether private or in social housing.

To become a member of ACORN your only qualification needs to be a desire to improve our lives, respect for others and have a sense of humour. (Our motto is "having fun while getting things done")

ACORN meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday of the month, 6pm at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and are preceded at 5.30pm by a meeting of the junior section Little Acorns, which is also gaining popularity among young people who get to, make their own decisions about a variety of subjects and plan their own events.

The popular local residents group have had a brilliant first year supported by our friends at the big lottery fund, GAMP, Great Aycliffe Town Council, Durham County Council, livin Housing, Individual Councillors and private donations. Chairman Ken Robson said the support received for a fledgling group has been fantastic. However, we have been a little stretched financially on some projects and the match funding recently received from livin will allow us to improve on those events already planned for 2013

and allow other projects to be considered, which may not have been viable without this grant.

Much has been learned from the events that have already been put on. Feedback from events such as the popular Queen Elizabeth 11 Jubilee Party, Halloween party and Pantomime visit to Sleeping Beauty at the Gala Theatre Durham brought fantastic comments, whereas, the Christmas market proved to be less popular.

Picnics in our local parks with families engaging in games of rounders, football, crazy Olympic games and just being silly have been popular throughout the past year; although the great British weather has conspired to put a dampener on proceedings.

ACORN does have a more serious function in tackling local issues such as crime, anti-social behaviour, environmental problems and the general improvement of Newton Aycliffe and the surrounding area.

ACORN has supported our local CAB which we believe is a vital service to our community. ACORN has been proud to support the installation of free exercise equipment for the use of the public installed in West Park. ACORN strongly objected to the transfer of responsibility for wheely bin removal from the bin men to the public. Controversially, in conjunction with Great Aycliffe Residents Association, ACORN have been involved in supporting the campaign to bring back our Police Station into Newton Aycliffe.

ACORN regularly invite guest speakers and have had a variety of interests discussed, recent speakers have included Phil Wilson MP, Ron Hogg Police and Crime Commissioner, Syd Howarth locally respected businessman and editor of Newton News, Steve Cooper from Great Aycliffe Town Council.

Working closely with other organisations such as the police, safer neighbourhoods unit, Great Aycliffe Residents Association, Sedgfield Residents Federation, and County Durham Residents Association and encouraging the creation of other groups, ACORN has rapidly gained a reputation for common sense ideas, problem solving and commitment to the welfare of the community.

Why not come along and join us in making your town even better

Ken Robson, Chairman
ACORN

SILVERDALE ACTIVITIES

Do you need a room with internet facilities, tea/coffee etc. for a meeting?

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3M Make it Safe for Brownies



Newton Aycliffe Rainbows and Brownies from Neville Parade Methodists Church would like to thank 3M for kindly donating fluorescent safety jackets for our children and guiders to keep us safe on our trips out. "We can't thank the company enough for such a kind donation", said Gemma Grayson.

POLICE COMMISSIONER STANDS BY PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITY

Ron Hogg, Durham's Police and Crime Commissioner has pledged his support to ending hate crime against people with a learning disability by signing up to Mencap's 'Stand by me' police promise.

Mencap launched the 'Stand by me' campaign during Learning Disability Week in 2010 and calls on police services to commit to a promise that will help make sure people with a learning disability can live their lives free from the fear of crime.

Durham Police officially endorsed its support to Mencap in June 2011 and continues to commit to fulfilling all nine points of the charter. Alongside

the policing promise, Mencap will work with Durham's PCC to develop practical guidance and spell out the adjustments they need to make to sure they can support victims with a learning disability.

Ron Hogg said: "I am committed to tackling hate crime in County Durham and Darlington and this is one of my personal priorities. Hate crime of any type is thoroughly despicable but becomes even more so when directed against vulnerable people".

Dan Scorer, Mencap's Senior Campaigns Manager, said: "Police services are doing good work, and their response is

getting better. Other services are still failing to support victims of disability hate crime. Through the 'Stand by me' campaign we want to make sure all police services are following the example set by the best. We welcome the PCC's commitment to uphold these standards and help end disability hate crime in a generation."

Mr Hogg will be holding a seminar on hate crime in the near future with relevant local organisations and groups, to determine the way forward. For more information on the 'Stand by me' campaign and charter, and to show your support, visit: www.mencap.org.uk/standbyme.

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ST. JOHN'S PERFORM "GUYS & DOLLS"

St John's School & Sixth Form College are currently gearing up for their production of 'Guys & Dolls' which will be held at Bishop Auckland Town Hall on the evenings of 6th and 7th March. Guys and Dolls is a musical set in New York City about a group of gamblers and their troubles in life, love and with the law and contains popular songs such as "Sit Down You're Rocking the

Boat" and "Luck be a Lady Tonight". Students from Years 7-13 are taking part and are involved in all aspects of the play from performing, through to the more technical aspects such as lights, costume and make up. Tickets are available from St John's School Office at £4.50 for adults and £3 for concessions, or telephone 01388 603246 for further information.

Enjoying the Challenge of Maths



Principal Tim Fisher with the students who gained the gold certificate.

Each year 100,000 students across the UK enter the Senior Maths Challenge and students at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington are increasingly involved, hoping to gain a gold certificate awarded to the top 10%. Helen Greaves, course leader for A Level mathematics at QE, said: "We were extremely impressed that 56 of our talented mathematicians participated in the competition excelling themselves gaining 5 gold, 13 silver and 17 bronze

certificates. We are very proud of success of all the students who took part." The five students awarded a gold certificate are first year students Martin Duggan and Cameron Grove and second years Daniel Legg, Jason Loveridge and Adam Elders. Adam, who is hoping to take up a place at university to study maths, also received a certificate for achieving the top results in the College. Martin, Cameron, Daniel and Jason are all planning to study

either mathematics or related subjects, such as engineering and computing, at university. Helen added: "An increasing number of students are choosing to study A Level mathematics at QE and this competition provides an excellent opportunity for them to enjoy the challenge of applying their mathematical skills." For further information, please contact the College - Anita Blackburn, Vice Principal on 01325 461315.

POLICE INSPECTOR REPLIES TO CRITICISM

Dear Sir,
I don't normally respond to letters placed in the paper as everyone is entitled to their

opinion but when letters aren't factually correct and appear misleading I feel that as the Neighbourhood Police Inspector I have a responsibility to comment.

In reply to Independent Councillor George Gray's letter titled 'Police Accused of forgetting West Ward' I would like to place a fairer balance on some of Councillor Gray's comments:-
• We never forget any area of the town and we work in partnership with a large number of agencies to ensure that the people of Newton Aycliffe get the service they need.
• Crime and Anti Social Behaviour is falling across Newton Aycliffe as a whole. This should give everyone confidence and reassurance.
• Councillor Gray fails to mention that within the West Ward itself crime is down by 18% and Anti Social Behaviour has fallen by 17%
• Councillor Gray knows that the West Ward has a Neighbourhood Police Officer allocated to the area. However, the current officer is off on maternity leave

• Even though this officer is off we have a team of Neighbourhood officer's who have covered this area collectively in her absence
• The West Ward has probably had a greater ratio of Neighbourhood Police Officer's working there over the past 12 months than in any other part of the town
• Two new Neighbourhood Police Constables are coming to Newton Aycliffe. I informed Councillor Gray and the community of this at the public meeting held at St. Mary's Church. They commenced with Durham Constabulary around September / October 2012 and have been at headquarters and on the streets of County Durham in training since this time.
As stated at this meeting I informed them that they would be permanently in Newton Aycliffe in the early part of 2013. They arrive on 5th February and one of these officer's (PC Holohan) is dedicated to the West Ward area of the town Neighbourhood Inspector 1846 Mark Hall

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Computers for the Terrified

New 8 week course starts at Woodham Community Centre on Wednesday 6th February 9-30am to 11-30am. We have 5 years experience of providing hands on help by a dedicated team for people who have little or no experience of using a computer.

You can have the time and help that you need to learn at your pace with no pressure and lots of fun.

If you want some extra time to practice, or want to just have a go before trying a course then our "Drop in Sessions" run from 11-30am to 1-00pm

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College Course to Help X Factor Contestants

Bishop Auckland College is believed to be the first in the country to offer a specifically designed course to help budding performers pass auditions for the hit TV talent show X Factor.

Students enrolling on the 17-week programme, which ends just in time for the next round of auditions for the ITV1 show, will receive technical tuition in singing and performing and coaching on how to project themselves confidently.

The idea behind the unique course stemmed from the college's previous work with X Factor winners – last summer the 2009 winner Joe McElderry and James Arthur, who took the 2012 title in December, both performed at the Bishop Auckland Music and Arts Festival.

The three day annual event, run by the college, attracted crowds of over 6,000 last June and students on the new course will be able to put into practice what they have learned by performing at this year's festival.

Mike Jinks, Head of Art, Music and Performing Arts at the College, explaining his inspiration for the course said: "I wanted to run a course which prepared people for X Factor auditions and similar competitions. Many applicants have talent but need to work on key things such as their singing technique and confidence."

"People auditioning also need to know that the ones who succeed on X Factor don't just walk in there blind. It's not about just wandering in, singing a song and you're famous. Most applicants have



2012 X Factor winner James Arthur shown performing at Bishop Auckland Music and Arts Festival last June.

been doing the rounds for years working really hard – it's very rare that you get a Susan Boyle character.

"The course is also about giving people real, transferable skills. The biggest thing they will get out of it is confidence, whether this is for a future singing audition or a job interview."

The X Factor Preparation course runs at the college's main Woodhouse Lane campus from 6pm to 9pm every Monday night for 17 weeks, starting on January 21. Experienced actress and performer Susan Harris, who has worked with global musicians including Lenny Kravitz and had TV roles including Davina Pike on Emmerdale during her 25 year career, is leading the course. There are 40 places available and there are no formal entry requirements other than

enthusiasm and motivation, although those enrolling need to complete a two week probationary period. Fees cost £95, but eligible applicants meeting certain qualifying criteria such as receipt of benefits will not need to pay. On completion, students will qualify with an NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Music.

Mike Jinks added: "There are plenty of colleges running this qualification but as far as I'm aware none of them have designed the course around the X Factor. It's something I came up with last year but it was finding the right time to run it as it had to be timed to finish when the X Factor auditions start."

"But it also ends just in time for the next music and arts festival in early June, and students who have qualified from the course will be invited to perform there in front of thousands which will be great experience for them."

For more information or to apply for the X Factor Preparation course, visit www.bacoll.ac.uk or email start@bacoll.ac.uk or call (01388) 443000.

Aycliffe Village Pupil Wins Top Prize



Aycliffe Village Primary School has been involved with a project called 'Bike It' for the last term. Pupils have worked very closely with the Sustrans Officer, Rio Floreza, employed by the Local Authority, to encourage pupils to use alternative transport to cars in order to get to school.

Recently, pupils were involved in a school competition to dress up their bikes. We had many entries that were excellent. Leo Norris won the school competition and was entered into a County wide competition. His entry won that, too. Here he is receiving his new bike as a prize.

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* ZUMBA FITNESS - Monday's 6.30pm to 7.30pm

* BOKWA FITNESS - Monday's 7.45pm to 8.45pm

* 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

Classes are held at the BETHANY CENTRE, Village Close, Woodham Way, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4UD

Classes are £3.50, pay as you go and you can come to as many sessions as you like!

Tel: 07908 162 868

Web: www.aycliffdance.co.uk

Email: aycliffdanceacademy@gmail.com



MAYOR'S CHARITY CABARET NIGHT

The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Val Raw, is to hold a Charity Night with Cabaret Artistes, Pie and Peas, Bingo and Raffle at Newton Aycliffe Workingmen's Club, Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe on THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2013 in aid of her nominated charities:-

The Butterwick Hospice (Bishop Auckland), Combat Stress and Town Organisations.

Tickets are £5 each and are on sale from the Council Offices or the Workingmen's Club.

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?

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Newly refurbished bedroomed semi detached house within walking distance of town centre. Fitted with modern appliances, oven & dishwasher. Downstairs WC, kitchen with feature fireplace, dining room with glazed door to garden, 2 double & 1 single bedroom, bathroom/WC with overhead shower attachment. Gas CH, gardens & parking. Rent: £550 pcm.



Hawthorne Drive School Aycliffe

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



Harewood Hill Darlington

3/4 bedroomed 3 storey wing of detached Georgian house retaining character features, situated in leafy area within walking distance of town centre. Unfurnished with carpets, curtains & some kitchen furniture. Ground floor: hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility, cellar. 1st floor: 2 double bedrooms & 1 single bedroom/dressing room, bathroom with shower attachment, shower room/WC, 2nd floor: double attic bedroom. Gas CH, front garden, hard standing parking & small area of uncultivated woodland. Rent: £775 pcm.



Briar Walk Darlington

Renovated/modernised, 3 bedroom mature semi detached house in good condition in prime area of town. Unfurnished with carpets, curtains/blinds, some wardrobes & some appliances. Hall, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, large conservatory with electric underfloor heating (width of house), 2 double & 1 single bedroom, upstairs bathroom with shower cubicle (modern fixtures & fittings). Gas CH, gardens, parking, garage/store (no room for a car). Rent: £795 pcm



Belford Way Newton Aycliffe

Modernised 2 bedroom detached bungalow, recently refurbished & in good condition. Entrance hall, lounge/dining room, feature stove-effect fireplace, fitted kitchen, inner hall, bathroom/WC with overhead shower, 1 double & 1 single bedroom, conservatory. Gas CH, front & rear gardens (rear South-facing), parking. Rent £495 pcm

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BETTER HEALTH WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT PCP

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Why not pop down to the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe to see what's on offer. Classes run Mon-Sat at varying times, all at very reasonable prices.

Monday:

Tone and Stretch 9-9.45am. Cost: £2

Cycling 10am start. Cost: Free

Boxercise 5.15-6pm. Cost: £3.50

Tuesday:

Health Walks 10am start. Cost: free

Fitness Friends 1.30-3pm. Cost: £2

Pilates 4.45-6pm & 6.15-7.30pm. Cost: £6

Wednesday:

Zumba 10-11am, 11-12pm & 7-8pm. Cost: £3.50

Back Exercise Class 5.15-6.15pm. Cost: £3.50.

Boxercise 5.15 -6pm. Cost: £3.50.

Thursday:

Health Walk 10.30 start. Cost: Free.

Nia Dance Fitness 3-4pm. Cost: £2.

Back Exercise Class 5-5.50pm, 6-6.50pm, 7-7.50pm & 8-9pm (circuits) Cost: £3.50.

Friday:

Running Group 10.30-11.30am. Cost: free

Tai Chi 12.30-1.30pm. Cost: £3.50

Saturday:

Bokwa 8.45-9.45am. Cost: £2.

PCP is focused on helping people discover new ways of improving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle and state of mind. "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." World Health Organisation.

Other activities available at the Pioneering Care Centre that aim to improve people's health and wellbeing include therapies and treatments, a hydrotherapy pool, arts and crafts and community learning courses ranging from English level 2 to Authentic Indian Cookery.

Further details from the Pioneering Care Centre, Carers Way, Tel: 01325 321234 email: enquiries@pcp.uk.net: www.pcp.uk.net

TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY KEY DRIVER IN NORTH EAST ECONOMY

Teesside University pours millions into the North East economy every year and has created hundreds of companies and jobs through its work with business, a new report says.

The KSA Partnership shows that Teesside University's business engagement and enterprise activities provide an ongoing contribution of £20m per year to the GVA in the North East.

To date 430 new businesses and 590 jobs have been created by graduate enterprise and DigitalCity Innovation – at an average cost per job that is £2,000 cheaper than the national average with a return on investment of 10:1 compared to 9:1 nationally.

As a leading University for engaging with business in the UK, Teesside University supported global entrepreneurship week, 12-18th November with a whole host of events for students, the public and staff – to foster entrepreneurial activity.

New business start-up is vital for economic growth and this is especially true in Tees Valley which is underperforming in terms of economic growth, employment and enterprise. The employment rate is lower than the national average and this is marked among 18-24 year olds. The number of enterprises and business units remains well below the national average. The report also shows some

notable areas of performance including:

Number of jobs created (146% of target), especially those created in disadvantaged areas (213% of target).

Businesses created (142% of target).

Businesses surviving 12 months (136% of target).

Professor Cliff Hardcastle,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Business Engagement said: "The report shows how vital the University is to the economy of this region because driving excellence in enterprise, nurturing entrepreneurship, and inspiring success is at the heart of our mission as a leading, business-engaged University."

Council Leader Wants Better Euro Deal

County Council Leader Cllr Simon Henig has lobbied the UK Treasury for a better funding deal from Europe.

He was part of a UK cross-party network of MP's and local government representatives who met the Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, this week to support the creation of Transition Regions.

Durham would be one of 11 across the country singled out for special recognition to safeguard their fragile economies and boost job creation. Durham would be linked with Tees Valley for the funding.

Cllr Henig said: "I firmly believe areas such as County Durham will benefit through the creation of Transition Regions in the next round of funding. It will significantly

increase growth and jobs and the Chief Secretary acknowledged our arguments and the strength of feeling.

"We know there is move to reduce the European Union budget but this is all about a fairer distribution and how funds will support jobs, growth and inclusion.

"Increasing jobs and growth through Transition Region status, especially in the least prosperous parts of the country, would make a major contribution to the government's objective of sustained and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries."

There is an EU budget summit in Brussels later this month when the creation of Transition Regions will be discussed. If agreed, they will take affect from 2014.

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Livin Support ACORN Residents' Association



ACORN Residents Association are pleased to announce that they have been successful in receiving a grant from the livin Community Fund, which will be used to continue their program of family community events throughout 2013.

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GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that:

A meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee of the Town Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe on:

WEDNESDAY 30th JANUARY 2013
at 6.00pm

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

GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL

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

Wednesday 30th January 2013

Council Meeting 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".

Amateur Art Exhibition



Among the first visitors to the Exhibition: Mary and Bryan Hill, Grandparents of Beth and Lois Atterby with organiser Kirsty from the PCP (centre)

The Colour your Life programme's first art exhibition is open to the public at Greenfield Art Gallery till Wednesday 30th January 2013.

'The heART of Friendship' is the theme clients chose to highlight that 'Colour your Life' is not just about the enjoyment of art, it's about making new friends and the importance of friendship in achieving quality of life.

The exhibition showcases 60 pieces of work produced by talented amateur artists, who all attend the sessions at the Pioneering Care Centre in Newton Aycliffe.

Launched 18 months ago, Colour your Life is funded by

the NHS and supports people who may be vulnerable, socially isolated and at risk of mental health problems. Others simply come to make new friends and pick up top tips from professional artists.

Janice Nevison, 51, from Newton Aycliffe has several pieces of work on display at Greenfield and says "I love coming to the Centre to attend Colour your Life, it's my time to escape, I love drawing, when I draw I become engrossed in what I am doing. I find it very relaxing. I have made some great friends, and I even take my art home now, for when I need to get away from my worries."

The weekly Colour your

Life sessions take place at the Pioneering Care Centre on Mondays 10am-12noon and 1-3pm, Tuesdays 6-8pm and a family session on Saturdays 10am-12noon. There is also an additional session at Number 15 in Spennymoor on Tuesdays 1-3pm. All classes take place in pleasant surroundings and give everyone the chance to learn new skills, make new friends and relax in a friendly atmosphere.

For more information about 'Colour Your Life' please contact the team on 01325 321234 or email colouyourlife@pcp.uk.net find them on: [facebook.com/ColourYourLife.AoP](https://www.facebook.com/ColourYourLife.AoP)

New Dental Service Opens in Darlington

Richard Harrison is one of only approximately 150 Clinical Dental Technicians that are qualified and registered in the country.

He commenced his studies in dental technology in Sheffield where he qualified as a Dental Technician in 1997. He went on to further his studies on the George Brown denturist course in Canada and achieved qualification and graduated as a Clinical Dental Technician.

Richard has completed a four year training programme and has many hours of intense training in the following fields: oral pathology, microbiology and infection control, orofacial anatomy,



periodontology, radiographic recognition, prosthodontics theory and clinical practice. He also obtained a Diploma in Clinical Dental Technology with the Royal College of Surgeons (Eng). His technical and support staff have undergone rigorous training and regularly attend courses to offer you the latest techniques and to ensure that all dentures meet the stringent standards that you expect, and have come to rely upon.

Bespoke Denture Clinic can provide a full range of services for the initial need and continuing care for you and your dentures. From a full set, to upper or lower single dentures, to a simple reline, soft reline, or adjustment to keep your dentures in perfect condition. Our friendly staff and technician at our state of the art centres can advise you fully on the best course of action for you.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

The weather might be cold outside but here at Greenfield Arts, you'll receive a warm welcome. Our new courses have started well. It's still not too late if you wish to join us though!

We have fantastic courses and activities such as weekly exercise sessions: Zumba, Street Fit and Bokwa to get you feeling fresh for 2013!

To find out more information, why not pop in and see us, or email: info@greenfield-arts.co.uk, phone 01325 379048 or visit our website: www.greenfield-arts.co.uk



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Richard Harrison CDT RCS - REG No. 156162



Student Business Programme Lands in Newton Aycliffe

Newton Aycliffe students can now benefit from an innovative programme that challenges youngsters to run their own city. Devised in the United States, Enterprise City sees children take control of their own city, make rules and discover the consequences of individual and group decisions. It is initially being targeted at primary school pupils, who will apply and be interviewed for various roles and then spend the day running a model city. Aycliffe-based Enterprise England, the company that brought the programme to the UK, held a pilot event with St Mary's School from the town earlier last year, and had immediate interest resulting in Pelton Primary School going through the programme before Christmas and other schools booking in for 2013. Gail Mason, a Year 6 teacher at St Mary's, said: "I was truly impressed with the levels of engagement and enthusiasm displayed by the children. "Every single one of them remained motivated and on task for the entire week. In fact, they were buzzing!" Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell,



head teacher at St Mary's, added: "Enterprise City took our Year 5 and Year 6 children on an exciting learning journey into the world of work. "Through a real-life context, our pupils had the opportunity to apply skills in new ways and deepen their thinking. The lessons taught were inspiring for children of all abilities and the opportunity to work as part of a team in this way was very motivational." The programme incorporates citizenship numeracy, literacy, and art and design

curriculum in an adaptable and kinesthetic way and is now being rolled out to schools across the North-East. But directors and brothers Darren and Dale Anderson, along with co-director and fellow Newtonian Damian Stevenson, are particularly keen to share the exciting new project with their hometown schools. Darren, pictured with Dale in front of the Enterprise City Sports shop, said: "I was shown this concept by Enterprise America Director Philip Ross in the USA about five years ago, and the minute I returned, I started working on how to bring it to the UK. The "City" was designed by Jonathon Minns and the signs produced by Newton Press. The project is being supported by Durham Education Development Service, the education arm of Durham Council. Phil Hodgson, Senior Lead Support and Development, said: "Enterprise City provides exciting, dramatic opportunities to practise social skills, to choose and apply for jobs, and to work individually and as a team. "We would encourage all teachers to find out more about the opportunities for children and young people from this exciting programme." For further information about the programme or if you think your school would be interested in learning how it works, please contact darrenanderson@enterprisecity.org or directly in touch with Catherine Robson, Education Development Advisor at the CYPs, Catherine.Robson@durham.gov.uk

Hitachi Opens New Office in the Xcel Centre

With the start of the new year, the project to bring train-building back to County Durham has moved into a new phase. Hitachi Rail Europe's first local employee, Paula Whitehead can now leave her home office and work from the newly established company office in the Xcel Centre. Just minutes from the site which will in future house the train factory, the Xcel Centre is a perfect base for Paula: "Having this new office in Newton Aycliffe as a base is another important milestone for Hitachi Rail Europe." "Over many months and even years, we have already established strong working relationships with many businesses in the region. The next step is to strengthen these and even expand the number of relationships across the area. The new office in the Xcel Centre is the ideal location for this." Kerina Clark, the Centre Manager is happy to welcome Hitachi to the Xcel Centre: "Ever since we hosted the first, tremendously successful Open Day event for Hitachi Rail Europe two years ago, we have had a



L to R: Paula Whitehead (Hitachi), Kerina Clark (Xcel) and Daniela Karthaus (Hitachi)

very good relationship with them. It is great to see that Paula is settling in to her new office and hopefully she will be joined by more of her colleagues soon."



STUDENTS TACKLE RISKY BUSINESS WITH INTERACTIVE INSURANCE SESSION

Year 12 and 13 students at St John's School & Sixth Form College in Bishop Auckland were involved in risky business with a lively learning session about careers in insurance. The Chartered Insurance Institute the insurance sector's professional body, recently delivered its award-winning Discover Risk activity to the school to provide more information on the huge range of global opportunities that exist in the sector. Teams of students studying A-level Economics and A-level Psychology participated in a scenario-based activity where different levels of risk were explored. The types of problems facing the would-be risk managers include a pop singer losing her voice on tour, cameras being damaged on a movie set and piracy affecting a company's profits. Andrew Reeve, head of work related learning and head of economics at the school, said: "It was a fantastic couple of hours in which the students really enjoyed learning about risk, insurance and careers they could go into that are both interesting and potentially lucrative. Caspar Bartington, relation-

ship manager at the CII, adds: "The Discover Risk activity is a great way for young people to understand more about what's on offer in the risk and insurance profession and to develop important skills such as teamwork, influence, negotiation and communication. We're convinced that through these sessions we're starting to identify some of our profession's future stars." The school is looking forward to extending its learning into money management in the future.

Town Roofers Affected by Bad Publicity

J.K. Roofing from Aycliffe Village believes his business has suffered following bad publicity over cowboy trader J & N Plastics. "My phone has been quiet since the article appeared in Newton News and it seems anyone which has a name close to J & N has been affected. I wish everyone to know I have no association with this company" said the owner of J. K. Roofing.

Training Event for Creative Businesses

In 2012 Greenfield College hosted an event delivered by Durham Creatives on selling creative products, and are pleased to announce after the success of last year's session, and by popular demand they are hosting a free session entitled "I hate networking!" on Tuesday 5th February, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The session will include some time discussing social networking, and how it can be used effectively to promote your business, as well as more information about starting a business. This promises to be an informative and interesting event that would be valuable for any local artists, crafters or creative business people. If you are interested in taking part in the session, please contact Durham Creatives via their website www.durhamcreatives.co.uk.

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Clandestine Cake Club Comes to Aycliffe

We are looking for bakers of all ages and experiences to join us on February 16th

at 2.30pm for an afternoon of cakey delights in a secret Newton Aycliffe venue.

There are now 160 Clandestine Cake Clubs throughout the UK but this is the only one in Co Durham. Clandestine Cake Clubs have featured on The Alan Titchmarsh show, The One Show and Women's Hour. The mission statement of the club is to "bake, eat and talk about cake". The clandestine part of the club is that all bookings are taken online and you don't find out the exact venue until a few days beforehand. Everyone who bakes a cake can bring a guest along too. All the cakes that arrive get shared and eaten between everyone there and any cakey remains also get divided up

for everyone to take home. The February event is a very special event as it's the launch of the first ever Clandestine Cake Club cookbook – all the recipes have featured at cake club events and written by Clandestine Cake Club members. There are of course a few rules for bakers to follow: EACH CAKE must be large enough to slice into around 8 – 12 good slices. NO cupcakes, Muffins, Brownies, Cookies, Pies or Tarts. Home-bakers, professional bakers and men can join in. It's not a competition, no judging, just a lot of fun.

All Clandestine Cake Club events have a special theme and February is "Cake Love". Bake a cake from your favourite cook book or make a show stopper cake that you think should be in a book - Or invent a new cake recipe just for the event. If you love baking, love eating and sharing cake come and join us. This event is just £2 and includes all the cake you can eat plus refreshments. There is no joining fee either you come to as many or a few events as you want. There is an event every month held within a 15-20 mile radius of Bishop Auckland. To book a place for you and a friend or for more information go to www.clandestinecakeclub.co.uk Or email durhamdalesccc@hotmail.co.uk

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An evaluation of two Volunteer Driver Health Appointment Schemes in County Durham

You are invited to attend a lunchtime seminar intending to provide an opportunity for policy makers, commissioners, practitioners, volunteers and those who use the service to hear about the recent evaluation study, its key findings and recommendations.

As well as providing an overview of the schemes and what they mean to those who use and volunteer with them, it will also explore means of sustaining them in the future.

Programme

- 12.00 Arrival, registration and lunch
- 12.30 Introductions:
 - Tim Wright, Public Health Portfolio Lead, NHS County Durham & Darlington
- 12.35 Overview of the two Volunteer Car Driver schemes:
 - Ashleigh Gibson, Development Worker, RSVP
 - Rose Thompson, Project Manager, SRC
- 12.45 What the service means to me?
 - A user's experience of the service
- 12.50 A driver's experience of volunteering for the service
- 12.55 Key messages from the evaluation
 - Tim Wright
- 13.10 Planning for the future:
 - Tim Wright
 - Ashleigh Gibson
 - Carol Reynolds, RSVP North Eastern Regional Manager
 - Rose Thompson
 - John Davison, C.E.O. The Social Resource Centre
- 13.25 Summary
- 13.30 Close

AIM
To share the findings of a review, commissioned by NHS County Durham & Darlington, of two health appointment volunteer car driver schemes.



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ROCSOLID THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who supported and attended our fun charity night at the Royal British Legion club in Newton Aycliffe last month. "We really appreciated the club committee's offer of the venue and the entertainment," said Mandy Shaw, operational manager of the supported housing project which is based at Hope House in Burnhope, Newton Aycliffe. "We raised £865 which will go towards educational activity trips for our young people this year." The charity has more than 40 young people and young families living in supported accommodation in Newton Aycliffe and Stockton.

Family History Course

Would you like the help of a Genealogist and free access to major Internet family history sites. Starting on Wednesday 6th Feb 2pm to 4-30pm for 10 weeks at Woodham Community Centre Course fee £44 or you may be eligible for a free course if you are in receipt of (or are an unwaged dependant of someone who is in receipt of Council Tax Credit (but not Council Tax Discount), Housing Benefit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment & Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit, Pension Guarantee Credit. Contact David Sutton-Lloyd on 316144

Managing the County Budget

Members of Durham County Council's Cabinet will consider an update on the authority's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) next week (January 16); including what impact the latest Government settlement has had on the council's budget plans. They will also hear how complex changes to the way councils are allocated Government funds mean Durham will have a significantly reduced share of the central pot and they'll learn what the public say about how the authority is handling the large budget cuts it faces. Early consideration of the local government settlement means a revised overall budget reduction of nearly £190m between 2011 and 2017. More than £90m of that has already been saved with work underway on a wide-range of other financial reviews. However, members will be advised that precise planning continues to be difficult in light of uncertainties surrounding funding for education and public health. In addition the council has yet to identify savings of nearly £53m which will be necessary between the years 2014/2017. Managing the budget available has meant many difficult decisions have had to be made on what is affordable and some significant changes have had to be introduced to save money while protecting, wherever possible, frontline services. Throughout this process speaking to residents to understand how they have been affected by reductions or changes to services has been a key element. Most recently members of the public - via the councils 14 Area Action Partnerships, the Citizens' Panel and targeted questionnaires - were asked for their views on how they felt the council had managed the spending cuts to date. 1,500 people responded and the results reveal there is a high level of public satisfaction with how the authority has managed a very difficult process so far. Included in the responses received is the fact that some 40 per cent of people felt that the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collections for refuse and recycling had had a positive impact on them, with only 12 per

cent reporting a negative impact. This change alone is already saving the council over £2m a year. When asked about managing future spending people said they wanted regular consultation on key decisions to continue and to see the council's management and structure under continued review as well as consistent moves to smarter ways of working. Cllr Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said: "We are making extremely tough decisions in very difficult financial times and it is pleasing to see the public response is largely positive to the way we have managed this situation so far. "The uncertainties around some key budgets mean there may be a need for further financial adjustment when we make our final budget decisions in February but we have promised to continue our discussion with the public so that we fully understand the impact these decisions have on our communities. "I would like to thank everyone who has helped us during this process by taking part in the many consultations that have been necessary and to say that we will continue to listen to their views moving forward." While last month's settlement was broadly what the authority had predicted, due to the uncertainties in some areas of funding nationally it is possible that further revisions will need to be made. However, Cabinet members will be asked to note the contents of the report and the impact of the local government settlement on the council when they meet at Crook Civic Centre next week. A further report will be taken to Cabinet next month (February 6) before County Council approve the budget at a meeting on February 20. The full paper can be viewed online by clicking on the following link <http://democracy.durham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=154&Mid=4543&Ver=4>

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Durham Tigers Registration Day for Players

On Tuesday 22nd of January Durham Tigers Rugby League will be holding its annual Open age (16+) and Under 15's Registration Evening, for the 2013 season, at Shildon's Sunnydale Leisure Centre. The club is looking to sign new players, and also to sign existing players to the team, for the upcoming season.

The club is particularly looking to recruit players for their open age (16+) team, in line with Sports England's aim to get more 16-24 year olds into sport. Club Secretary Phil Selby Said: "It's a shame that a lot of teenagers fall out of sport when they leave school and never get back into it, however with the Olympics, Sports England's campaign and the Upcoming Rugby League World Cup, that will be hosted in England, a lot

of 16- 24 year olds are being inspired to try a new sport and at the Tigers we hope that we can inspire them further and ultimately help them to play sport on a regular basis which would obviously have great benefits to their health and wellbeing."

If you would like to register to be a player in one of our teams for the 2013 season then the Tigers Invite you to the Registration Evening where you can talk to coaches and make a decision about becoming a Tiger. If you are under 18, please make sure

you provide a proof of age, your parents consent and 2 passport size photographs.

"If you are interested in joining us or would like more information" said Phil Selby, the Club's Secretary "you can either like 'We Are Durham Tigers' on Facebook, call us on 07949 706546 or just turn up at Sunnydale Leisure Centre, Shildon at either: 6:30 on Tuesday Evenings if you are interested in our open age (16+) team or at 10 am on Saturday mornings if you are interested in our junior teams."

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Cabaret & Disco at the Big Club

The Macadam School of Dance (estab 1976) is holding a Cabaret Fundraising Evening on Friday 8th February at Newton Aycliffe Workingmens Club from 7 - 11pm.

The evening includes entertainment by the School's famous Show Girls with a disco. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children available from the club or by ringing Diane on 07890 511243 or Mary on 07790 252571.

The School offers classes in tap, modern jazz, ballet, acro with students entered for Exams and Competitions in addition to live performances. Macadam Dance is a member of the British Dance Arts Federation.

LOCAL SPORT

Woodham Boys in Athletics Competition



Left to right: Brooklyn Chapman, James Nesbitt, Blake Airey, Ryan Harris and Harry Duggan, Lyndon Hall was also part of the squad.

After winning the South West Durham regional Sportshall Athletics before Christmas, six year 8 boys from Woodham competed at the Durham County Sportshall Secondary Athletics competition on Wednesday 9th January. The competition was held at the Louisa Centre, Stanley, with the other County area

winners Durham Johnston, St Johns and Parkview competing against each other in a variety of field and track events. Woodham were representing South West Durham after winning their area event against Greenfield, Sedgefield, Whitworth Park, Ferryhill and Sunnydale at the end of last year.

Water Polo Players of the Year



Sedgefield Water Polo Club presented the Player of the Year awards for 2012. Niall Coulthard (9) was voted the best newcomer after making tremendous progress with his hard work since he joined the club. Niall is a great prospect for the future. Emily Pilkington (13) won the the Under 14 award after being invited to join the GB Under 16 squad at such a young age and making her debut in the National League at only 13. The Under 16 award went to Ben Turnbull (14) who is a member of the GB Under 15 squad and has impressed a lot of people with his goal threat.

The Under 18 award went to Adam Woods (17) who after a number of setbacks due to injury has showed great determination and hard work in getting into the GB junior squad.

The overall player of the year is Rhiannon Foulds (16) who played for Wales this year with distinction and has been picked for a tournament in Holland in February.

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Fun Football Academy

The Jason Steel Football Academy was established back in September with support from Education Enterprise and Woodham Academy, the goalkeepers previous school.

The emphasis is always on fun and enjoyment while still being educational. The children will learn how to play football, while also improving their social and communication skills.

Jason Steele Football Academy runs every Tuesday term time and is split into two age groups; 4-7 year olds 5-6pm and 8-11 year olds 6-7pm. The focus on the younger age group is to develop football skills through a FUNDamental coaching style.

For the older group the focus is to improve all aspects of the

child's knowledge of the game and improving basic football skills.

Prizes and gifts can be won throughout the programme for the children that excel in not only the football side of it but there behaviour as well. Last term one lucky boy was awarded with a signed England shirt of Jason himself.

All children are invited to attend the Jason Steel Football Academy and we would love to see some new faces.

If you are interested in coming along call Josh Ridley on 07951 821238 or you can email joshridley@educationenterprise.co.uk alternatively check the website for upcoming holiday events www.educationenterprise.co.uk

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Additional checks on children's weight should be carried out to provide a better understanding of obesity levels, Durham County Council's Cabinet were told recently. Information on children's height and weight is currently gathered when youngsters are in Reception Class (age 4/5) and when they are in Year 6 (age 10/11) through the National Child Measurement Programme. However, a report by a county council scrutiny committee recommends that additional measurements should be taken when children are 6 or 7-years-old in Year 2. The proposal is being put forward to help health workers understand why obesity levels at reception class age in County Durham are lower than the national average but by Year 6, the rate has more than doubled. Cllr Jan Blakey, Chair of Durham County Council's Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, said: "The difference in the occurrence of obesity between these two age groups is significant but also complex as a myriad of factors

impact on childhood obesity. "A greater understanding is needed of why a gap has developed and how it can be addressed. An intermediate measurement taken at age 6/7 could possibly provide an opportunity to offer programmes at an earlier age." The scrutiny report notes that childhood obesity levels have reached a plateau in recent years but the time is now right to work towards reducing obesity. It makes reference to the impact of fast food outlets on obesity and notes the proposal within the County Durham Plan to limit the number of hot takeaways located next to schools and colleges. It proposes that the current strategy for tackling obesity in children and young people is reviewed and updated to reflect changes in legislation, current intervention programmes, statistics and funding arrangements. It also notes the success of programmes including MEND and FISCH, which promote the importance of physical activity and eating a well-balanced diet.

Funding for Youth Hits Right Notes

Young people are set to benefit from a whopping grant of almost £160,000 to enable more musical experiences to take place across the county. Durham County Council's arts team has secured £157,169 from Youth Music which will enable a full programme of musical activity worth a quarter of a million pounds for children and young people across the county. It's one of the biggest awards Youth Music has made nationally and the assessment panel said that they were impressed with the council's application, which had strong competition. Paul Hebron, positive activities manager, said: "We are delighted to be a partner in an initiative which will provide the opportunity for young people who attend youth work projects to be involved in music programmes that will benefit them in both the short and long term. "I am especially pleased that the programme will offer training opportunities for youth workers."

A programme of activities is being organised including youth band work with youth workers, delivered by Generator and working in partnership with further education colleges and schools, Durham Music Service and other partners. Young people who access the CATS programme as part of the council's Specialist and Safeguarding Services will have the opportunity, on a regular basis, to take part in sessions delivered by music leaders from The Sage in Gateshead. All activities will take place until April 2014. Cllr Neil Foster, Cabinet member with responsibility for culture, said: "We really welcome this funding. It's fantastic that our young people will be given the opportunity to take part in sessions such as this as arts and culture are so important

Thank You

MRS GRACE HEDLEY would like to thank everyone who attended her birthday party and for all cards and gifts received. Money raised for Cancer Research totalled £90. Thank you all. PAULA CRUDDACE A big thank you to all that attended my 50th Birthday Party. It was a great success due to the great turn out. Thank you for my wonderful cards and presents, thank you to the Big Club and Molly for providing the venue, to the caterers Faith and Bill. Thanks to Sue for one of my fabulous birthday cakes; New Aged Jam for their fantastic music and of course John Melvin for keeping the tunes flowing. A special thanks to family and Benny who helped decorate the hall and a big special thank you to Andrew and Sam who kept me sane through the whole process. HARRY SURMAN would like to thank all his family and friends for all the beautiful cards and gifts received on his 5th birthday and making his day such a special one. JOHN KING DRIVING, thank you for helping me pass my driving test John, you are a kind and patient instructor, but more importantly you are a very brave man! Love Elaine

In Memoriam

Agnes Williams

July 2nd 1912 to January 16th 2011

The ones we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Memories of a much loved Mam, Nana and Great "Little" Nana. From all your loving family

Sits Vacant

2 x SKILLED upholsterers required for small business, immediate start. 40 hours per week, Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm, Friday 8am-4.30pm. Lifting involved and general housekeeping. Wage negotiable. Contact: Pauline Darks, c/o Nichol & Hill Ltd., Kellaw Road, Yarm Road Business Park, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 4YA (written applications only) GUITARIST REQUIRED For local Trio gigging in Pubs, Clubs, Hotels & Holiday Parks. Either Male or Female considered, must have image and ability. Any age considered, harmonies an advantage, wages on application. Call Nev on 07966 898322. WE ARE LOOKING for an experienced person with special education needs experience and preferably with a working knowledge of the special learning profile of children with Down Syndrome. Friday 9am - 12.30pm term time from Friday 12th February - July 19th 2013 initially. Applications to Marie Etherington by 28th January 2013. £15 per hour. Tel 01325 329939

Congratulations

"Sweet 16" Lucy Hall



Happy 16th Birthday Lucy

20th January 2013
Lots of love and kisses, Mum, Dad and Chris xxx
Happy 16th Birthday to our wonderful Granddaughter Lucy. Love from Grandma and Grandad Banks xxxxx

Eleanor Grace Johnson



Congratulations

to our wonderfully talented Daughter, gaining distinction Grade 1 Jazz Flute, LCM; Distinction Grade 1 Keyboard LCM and a Merit Grade 1 Classical Folk ABRSM. A fantastic start to your musical career. Sincere thanks to Dan Shield Music Works Northern, Dr Fiona Little and Steve Bone for your first class tuition. Well done Gracie, Love from Mam, Dad, Florence and Monty. Well done Gracie, keep up the good work! Love from Nana Marjorie and Granda Vic. Congratulations Gracie and well done on your recent music exam results. We are all so proud of you. Love from Granda Harry, Nana Sue, Great Grandpa Frank and Great Grandma Janet.

Liam Bellwood



Happy 13th Birthday

18th January 2013
"A Teenager At Last"
Love from Mum, Dad and Christopher

????



Happy 30th Birthday

You know who you are!!!
Love from the Toby Gang
xxxxxxxxxxx

Ann Shevels



Happy 70th Birthday

Have a great party. Hope you are not too embarrassed!!! Lots of love from all the family xxxxx

Joshua Mackay



Happy 21st Birthday

There was no power steering when you were a baby. Off for your first game of golf, faster than a 1 litre Corsa, boy racer from day one! Happy 21st birthday. Love, Mum xxx

Martin and Lindsay

31st December 2012

Congratulations Martin and Lindsay on your Engagement on New Years Eve. Wishing you lots of love and happiness for the future. Love from both families xxxx

Joseph William Warburton



Happy 80th Birthday

18th January 2013
To the best Dad and Granda Joe, enjoy your special day. Lots of love from all your family and friends xxx

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100% Success Rate for Aycliffe F.C.

Newton Aycliffe continued their 100 per cent start to 2013 with a 2-0 victory against Sunderland RCA last weekend.

Martin Young and Danny Earl both found the net in the second half to move Allan Oliver's side seven points clear of the relegation zone in the Northern League first division.

Oliver handed a first start to Sean Reay, who joined from league-leaders Darlington last month. The former Blyth Spartans striker had the best chance of the first half but visiting goalkeeper Lewis Graham saved well to ensure it was scoreless at the break.

But after a relatively dull opening period, the fans soon had something to shout about in the second half. Five minutes after the interval referee Barry Gordon pointed to the spot after Shaw went down under Scott Pocklington's challenge.

The Aycliffe players were incensed, feeling the former Darlington keeper had got his hands on the ball, but any injustice was soon avoided as Pocklington saved brilliantly down to his right.

Aristote Guerin-Lokonga did find a way past the goalkeeper three minutes later but the striker's effort came bouncing back off the post.

And with that the Ryhope club

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES
Saturday 19th January: Celtic Nation (A) 3pm
Wednesday 23rd January: Durham (H) 7.30pm
Saturday 26th January: Norton & Stockton (H) 3pm
Saturday 2nd February: Hebburn (A) 3pm
Saturday 9th February: Spennymoor (H) 3pm
www.newtonaycliffefc.co.uk



Photo: Colin McNeillie

appeared to believe it was not going to be their day while the Newtonians' belief soared.

Aycliffe took the lead after 67 minutes. The excellent Young picked up the ball on the edge of the area and let fly with a low left-footed drive to find the bottom corner of the goal.

With 12 minutes left the Royal Blues made sure of the victory as substitute Kris Hughes did well down the left and pulled the ball back for Earl who clinically

tucked away his 10th league goal of the season.

The Newtonians comfortably saw the game out to register only a fourth clean sheet of the season. And with the news that South Shields, Norton, Billingham Town and Newcastle Benfield had all failed to win, Aycliffe's fans made their way home in high spirits.

Oliver's men will look to add further distance between themselves and the drop zone this weekend when they make the trek across the A66 to face Carlisle-club Celtic Nation.

Weather permitting, the Royal Blues have the opportunity to leapfrog the Cumbrians in the table with a victory. Their lowly league position can be explained by the fact they have played fewer games than any other team in the division – having only completed 19 fixtures, they have played nine fewer games than Aycliffe.

But the Green-and-Whites have failed to win any of their last three home games and Aycliffe travel there in good form, following four wins in their last six outings.

Byerley Park Students Attend Football Forum

The Darlington Football Club Community Interest Company hosted the first 'Meet the Chairman and Manager' children's forum at Longfield Academy of Sport last month. Schoolchildren from Darlington and Newton Aycliffe who had taken part in the Community Schools Programme, quizzed DFC chairman Denis Pinnegar and Manager Martin Gray on all things football, both on and off the pitch.

It was a fantastic opportunity for young fans to get to know more about what goes on behind the scenes at the football club and also find out more about the club's success. Byerley Park Primary School were joined by Darlington School for Mathematics and Science, Corporation Road Primary School Darlington and Longfield Academy of Sport.

The children from Byerley Park, all in Year 6, asked questions on a wide variety of topics, ranging from the future of the club to who decides which players to buy.

Afterwards they were able to talk with Denis and Martin informally and get autographs. Students included Neave Heaton, Ebony O'Donnell, Aaron Dixon and Harri Lynch, (see photo). Harri said: "They were honest and talked about everything", and Ebony went on to say, "We were very proud to represent our school and I found the whole event very interesting". Neave thought Denis and Martin were very open and said, "The experience was brilliant and I'm so happy our school was invited to take part". Aaron, who was very pleased to be selected to attend, said, "It was simply a fantastic experience and we got good answers to our questions".

Byerley Park Head Teacher,



Mrs Alison Gargan, was delighted when she was asked to send some pupils to the Schools Question Time.

"In October we had 28 of our children visit Darlington Football Club for the match day experience and it was absolutely fantastic for them to meet the players and manager in the dressing room before the match, and then to take part in a penalty shoot-out at half time was really exciting. I was very happy to support the Schools Question Time

event and proud of the four children who were given the opportunity to ask questions of the chairman and manager. I'm sure they learned a lot from this experience", Mrs Gargan said. Martin Gray, Quakers manager added: "It was great to interact with the schoolchildren from Byerley Park and from their questions I could tell they were passionate about our football club. They are our fans of the future and we look forward to their support for years to come."

Aycliffe Running Club

Aycliffe Running Club sent 8 teams to the Durham Cathedral Relays on Sunday. The cross country event attracts some of the region's leading clubs and athletes.

Undeterred by the strong competition the Aycliffe teams all put in excellent performances. The Veteran Men's A team of Lee Wren, Peter Milburn and Dez Fielden, was the pick of the bunch finishing 17th in their race in 29:24. Dez put in the fastest individual time of the Aycliffe runners, completing the 1.7 mile leg in 9:32.

Other Aycliffe teams; Alex Lineton, Martyn Knox & Matt Heron, 31:52

Rob Young, Daz Moore & Peter Smith, 34:15

Wendy Blake, Naomi Kellet & Michelle Scott, 36:46

Ste Smith, Michael Smith & Lee Hoar, 38:07

Penny Johnson, Tracey Warrior & Sue Milburn, 41:15

Bev Phillippo, Elaine Pearson & Julie Nisbett, 47:41

Anne Kellett, Yvonne Williams & Elaine Morgan, 48:18

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